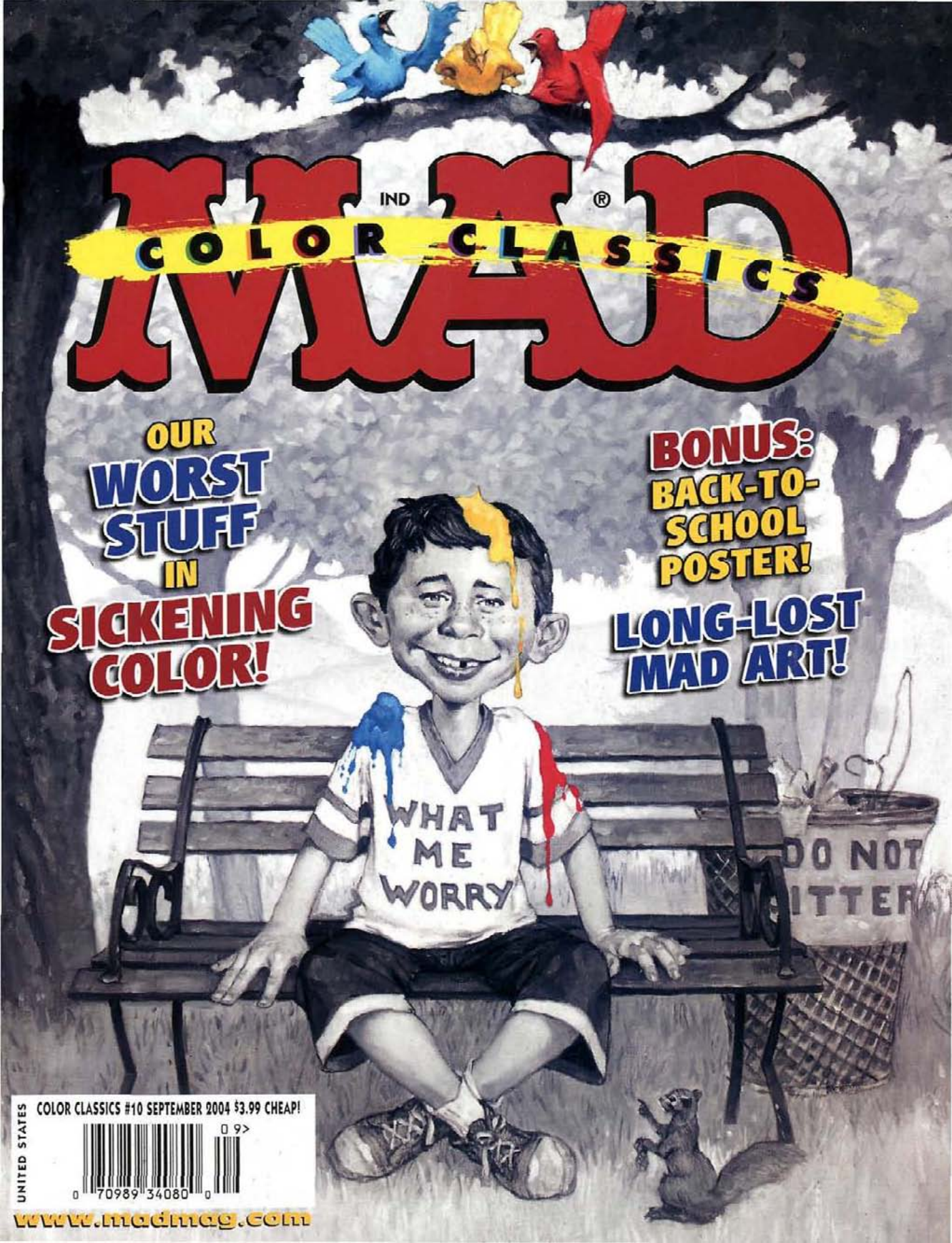


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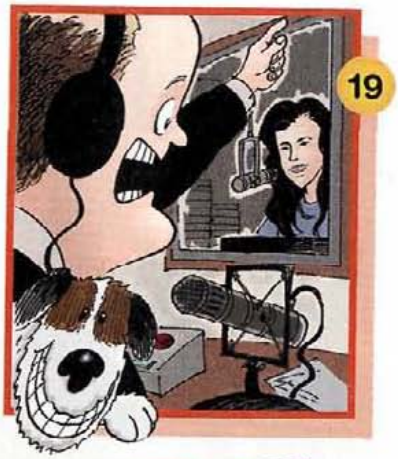
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Richard Williams

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the usual gang of idiots

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A FLAG ON THE PLOY DEPT.

INFRACTIONS

ARTIST: JACK DAVIS

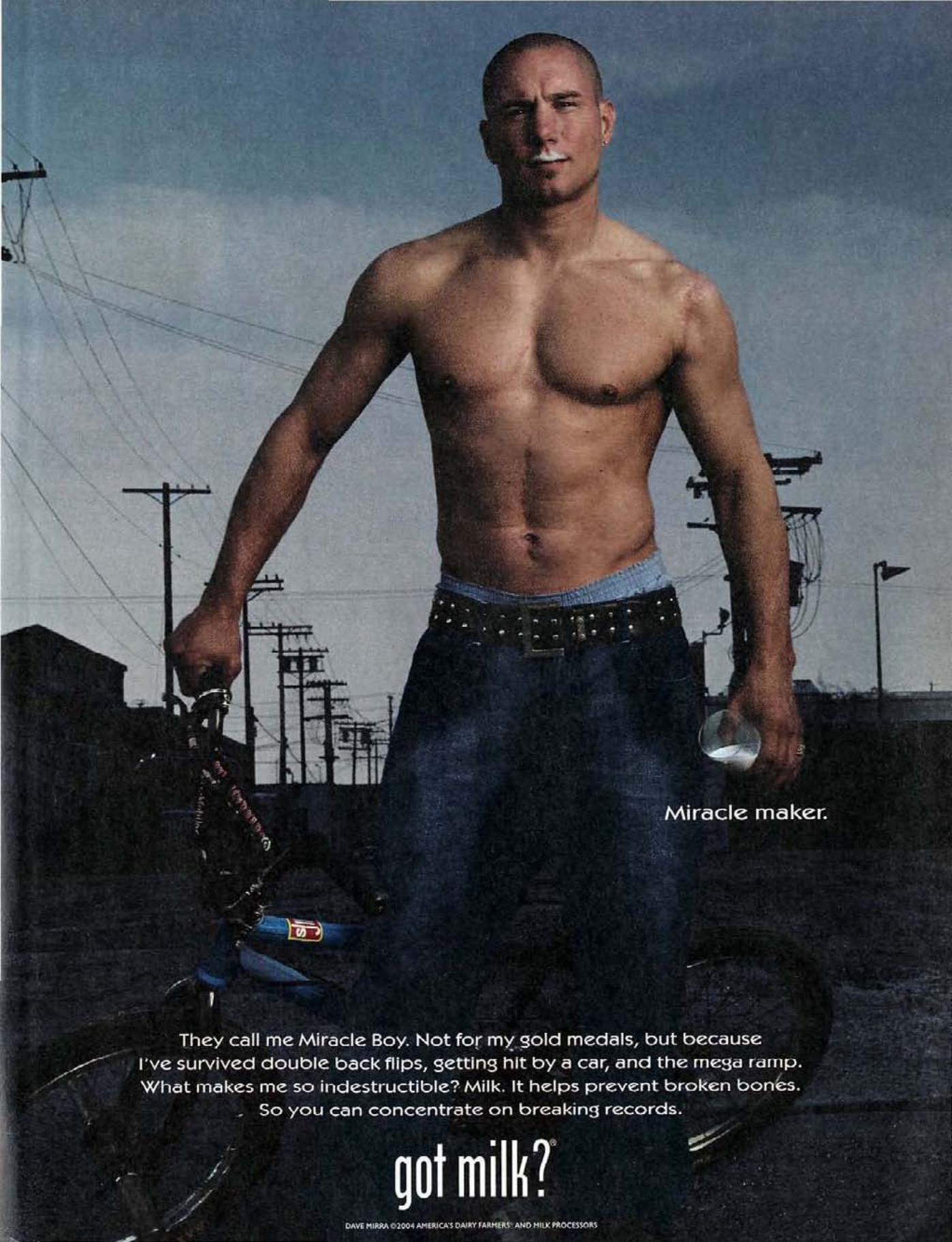
THE INFRACTION:	THE CALL:	THE PENALTY:
	"Holding" 	Having To Listen To One's Own Drivel For A Whole Evening 
	"Piling On" 	Being Barred From Use Of The Bathroom For Duration Of Event 
	"Tripping" 	One 340-Pound Return Stomp 

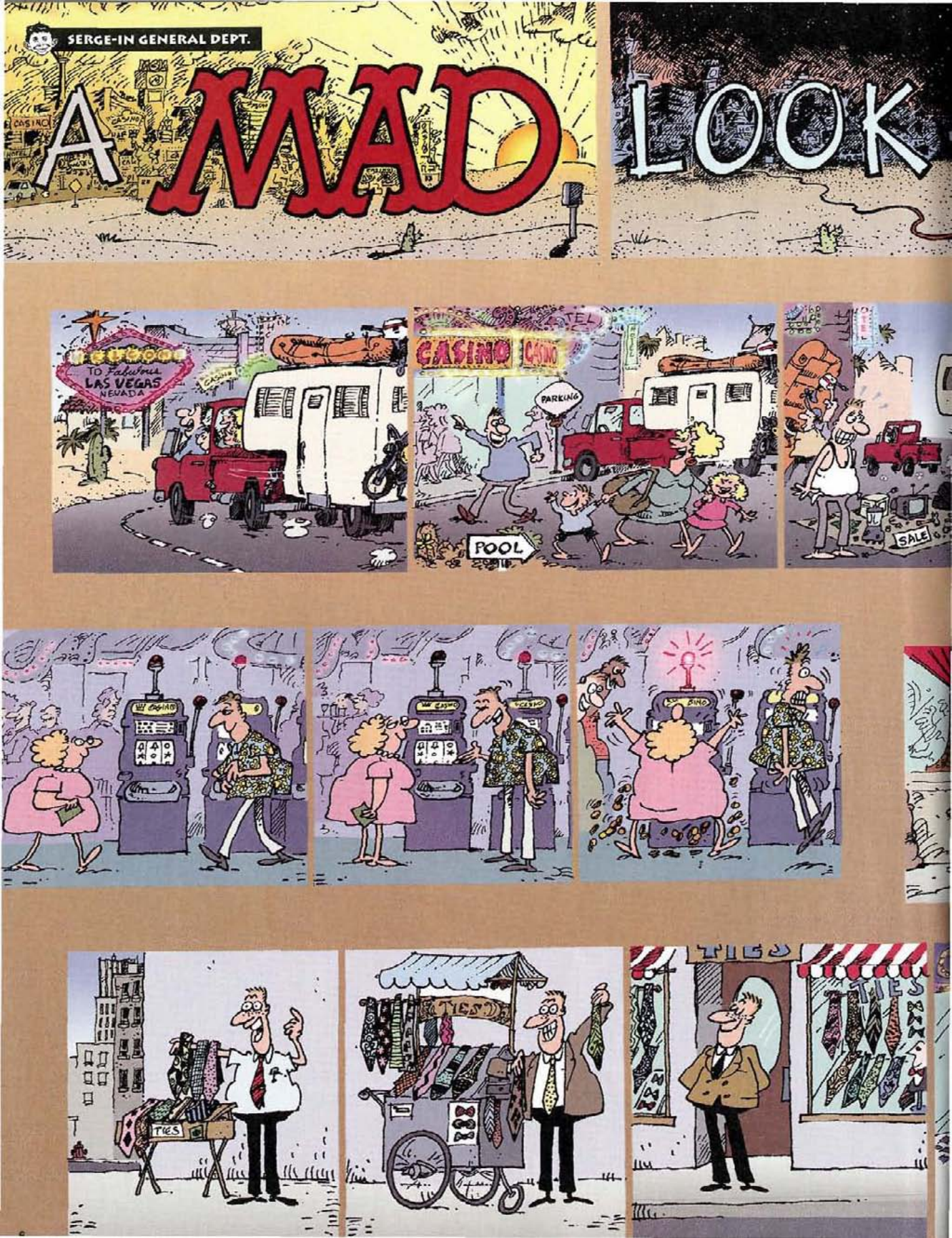
WE'D LIKE TO SEE CALLED IN EVERYDAY LIFE

WRITER: PAUL PETER PORGES

THE INFRACTION:	THE CALL:	THE PENALTY:
	"Pushing" 	Being Forced To Miss The Next Two Commuter Busses 
THE INFRACTION:	**THE CALL:**	**THE PENALTY:**
	"Interference —By Grandma" 	Having To Spend One Week Alone With The Little Darlings 
THE INFRACTION:	**THE CALL:**	**THE PENALTY:**
	"Fouling" 	Enforced Exposure During Heat Of Summer 

THE INFRACTION:	THE CALL:	THE PENALTY:
	"Passing To An Illegal Receiver Downfield" 	Insufficient Tip 
THE INFRACTION:	**THE CALL:**	**THE PENALTY:**
	"Too Much Time Out" 	Garlic Breath From Next Five Patients 
THE INFRACTION:	**THE CALL:**	**THE PENALTY:**
	"Too Much Time In The Huddle" 	Having To Spend Remainder Of Evening With Her Parents 
THE INFRACTION:	**THE CALL:**	**THE PENALTY:**
	"Clipping" 	Internal Revenue Audits Of Five Years Of Overcharging 


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A MAD LOOK
TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
CASINO
PARKING
POOL
SALE
TIES



ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES




















RINGGG!
RING
RINGG!


RINGG!
RING!
RING
JACK POT






















DRESSING
ROOM


WIN IN
VEGA$
BOOKSTORE


VEGAS


FLIGHT 85
TO LAS VEGAS

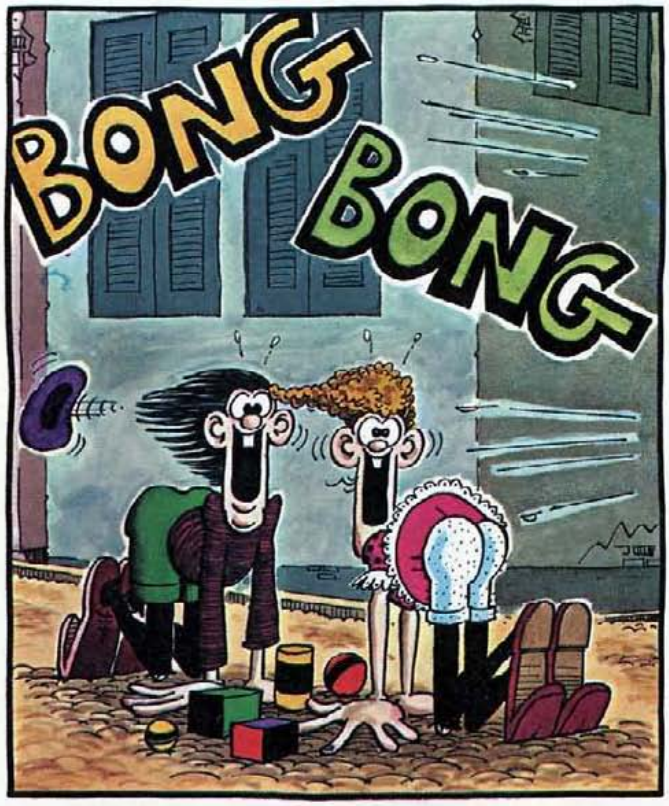

FLIGHT 33
FROM
LAS VEGAS



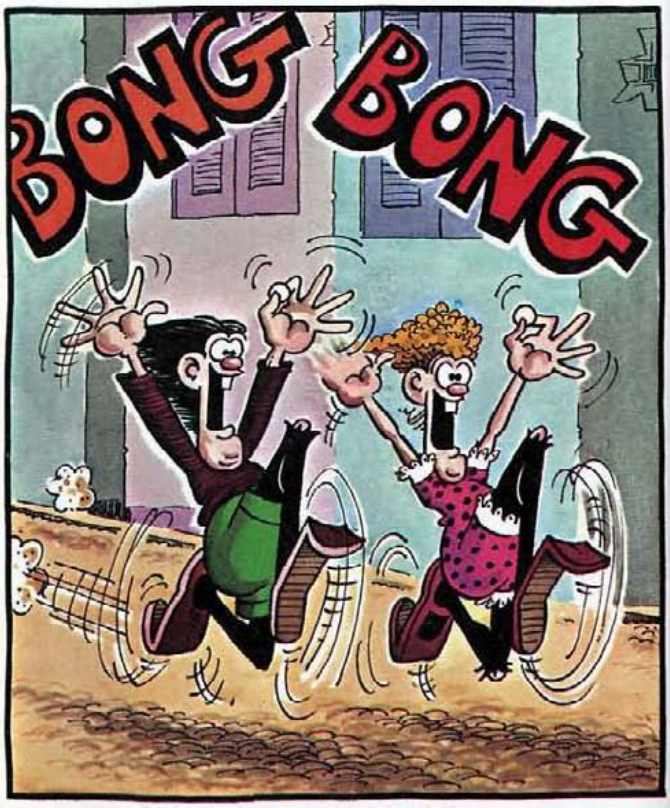

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WIN
IN
VEGAS

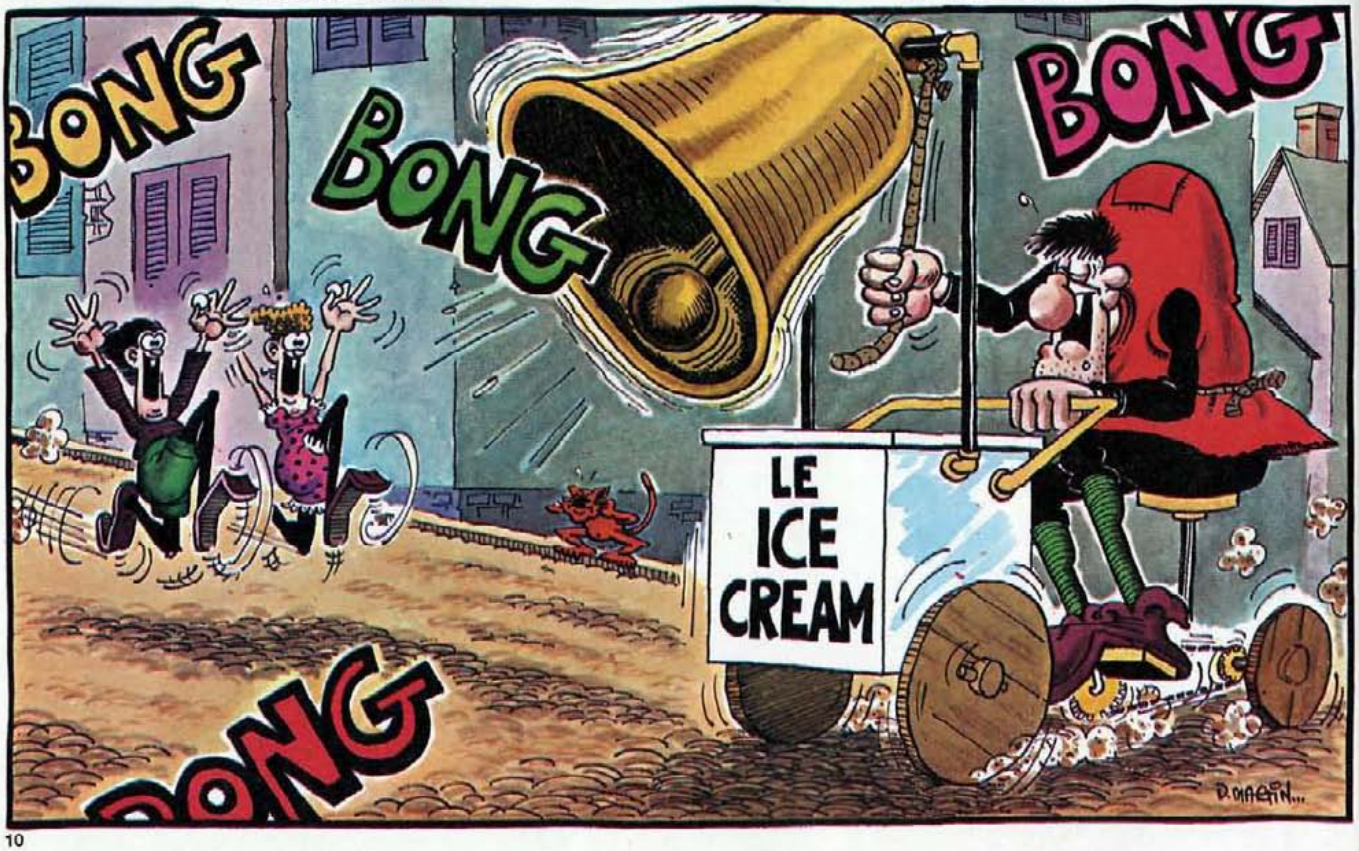
ONE DAY IN PARIS



ARTIST: DON MARTIN



WRITER: DON EDWING





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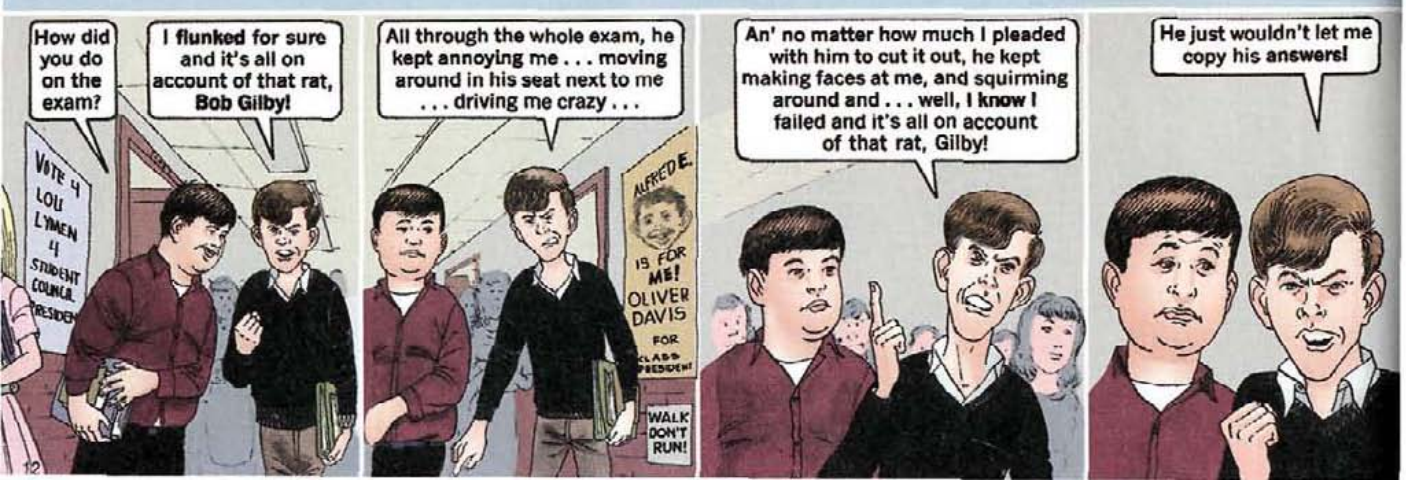
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BERG'S-EYE VIEW DEPT.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF





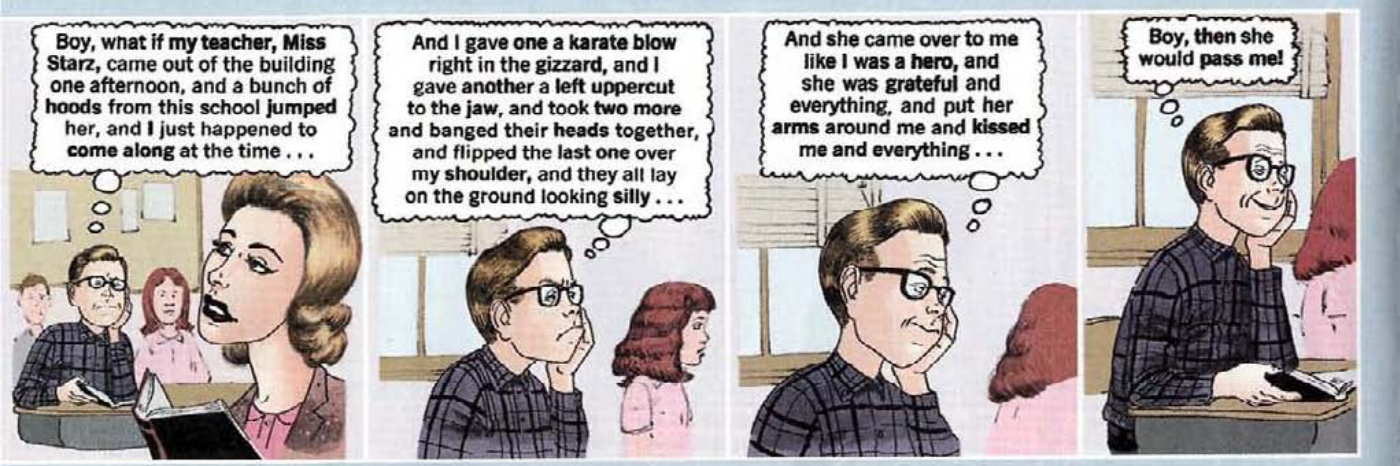


JUNIOR HIGH

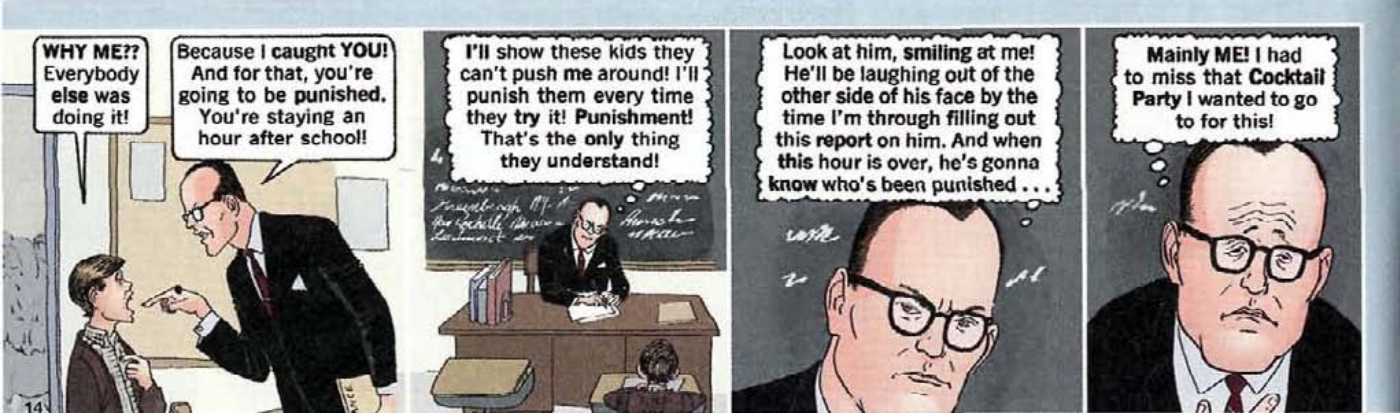
ARTIST & WRITER: DAVE BERG

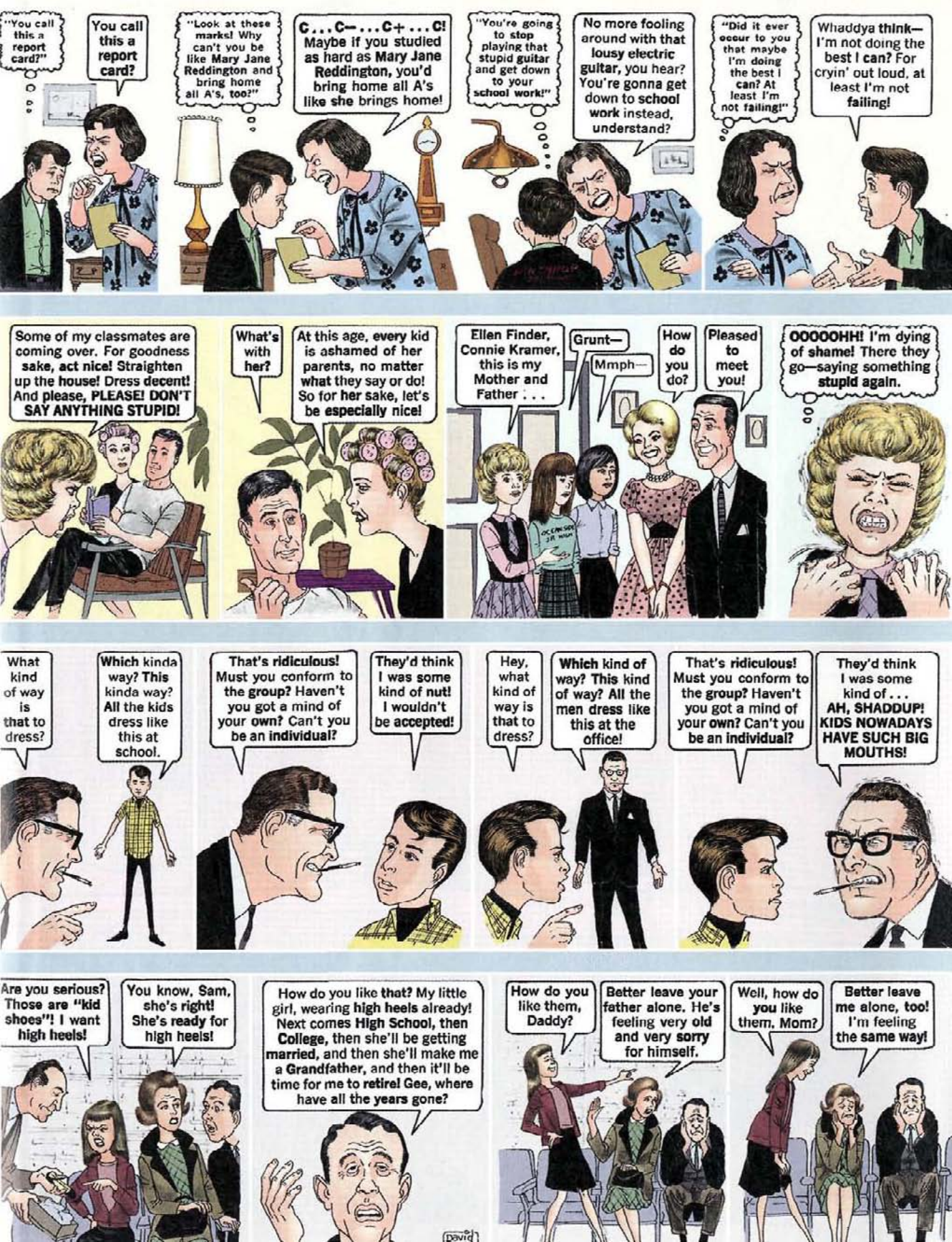


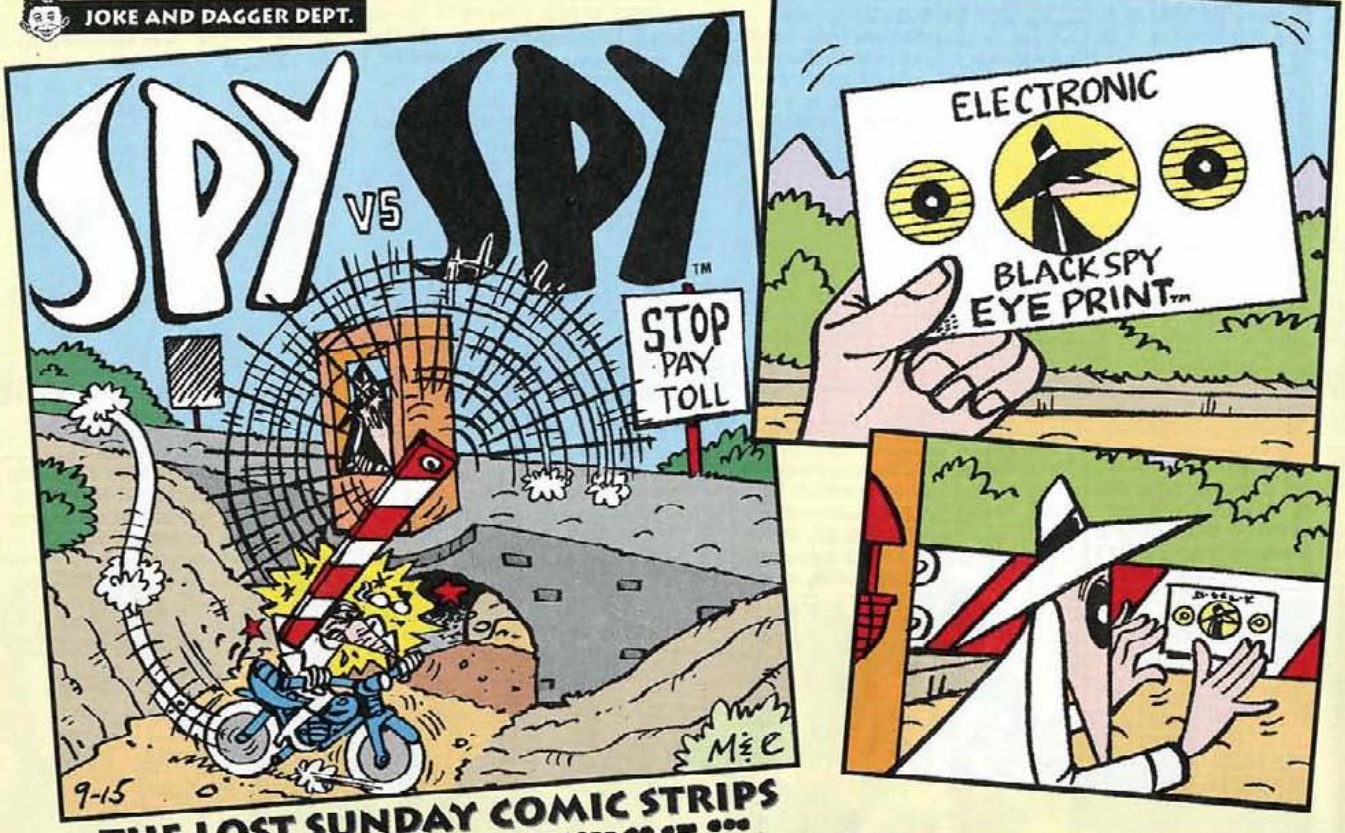

Terry! What did you do to your hair!? It looks terrible!!
I know! I could kill myself!
I'd like to go find a hole somewhere and crawl in and die, I'm so miserable!
But what happened to it to get it into that disgusting condition?
My mother made me comb it! —sob—


Boy, what if my teacher, Miss Starz, came out of the building one afternoon, and a bunch of hoods from this school jumped her, and I just happened to come along at the time . . .
And I gave one a karate blow right in the gizzard, and I gave another a left uppercut to the jaw, and took two more and banged their heads together, and flipped the last one over my shoulder, and they all lay on the ground looking silly . . .
And she came over to me like I was a hero, and she was grateful and everything, and put her arms around me and kissed me and everything . . .
Boy, then she would pass me!

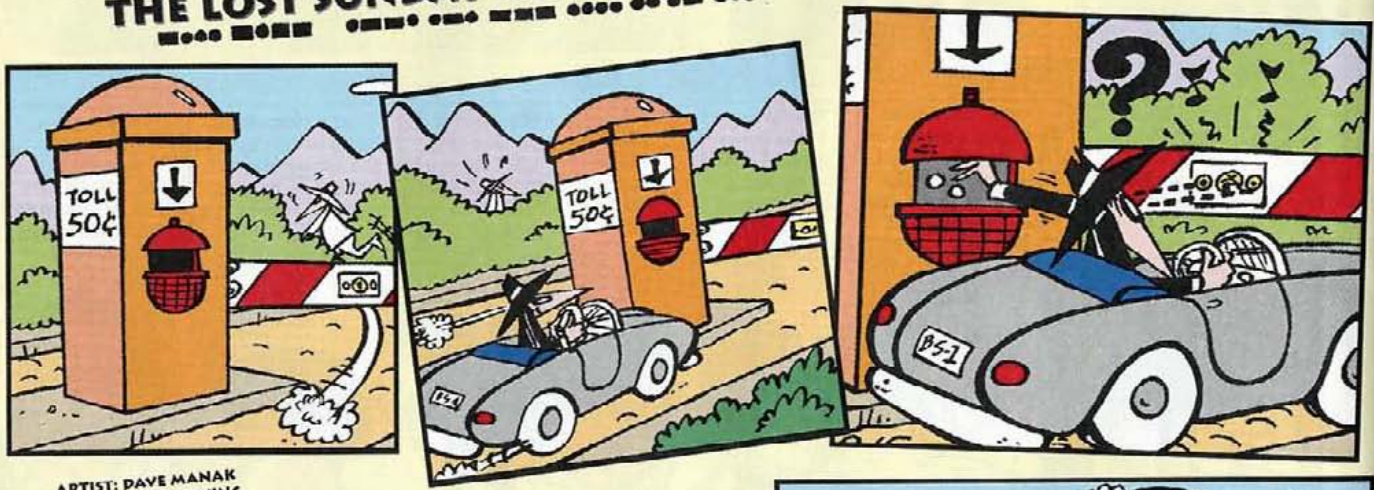

WACK!
BAM!
WHAM!
Gee . . . Richie and Loretta really like each other!
CRACK!


WHY ME?? Everybody else was doing it!
Because I caught YOU! And for that, you're going to be punished. You're staying an hour after school!
I'll show these kids they can't push me around! I'll punish them every time they try it! Punishment! That's the only thing they understand!
Look at him, smiling at me! He'll be laughing out of the other side of his face by the time I'm through filling out this report on him. And when this hour is over, he's gonna know who's been punished . . .
Mainly ME! I had to miss that Cocktail Party I wanted to go to for this!

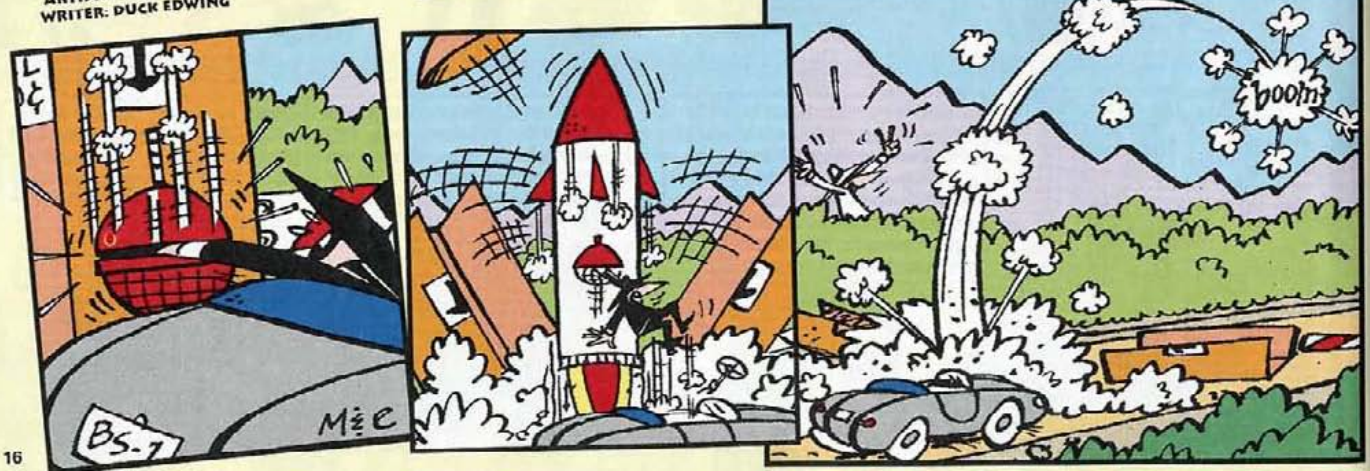

"You call this a report card?"
You call this a report card?
"Look at these marks! Why can't you be like Mary Jane Reddington and bring home all A's, too?"
C . . . C– . . . C+ . . . C! Maybe if you studied as hard as Mary Jane Reddington, you'd bring home all A's like she brings home!
"You're going to stop playing that stupid guitar and get down to your school work!"
No more fooling around with that lousy electric guitar, you hear? You're gonna get down to school work instead, understand?
"Did it ever occur to you that maybe I'm doing the best I can? At least I'm not failing!"
Whaddya think— I'm not doing the best I can? For cryin' out loud, at least I'm not failing!
Some of my classmates are coming over. For goodness sake, act nice! Straighten up the house! Dress decent! And please, PLEASE! DON'T SAY ANYTHING STUPID!
What's with her?
At this age, every kid is ashamed of her parents, no matter what they say or do! So for her sake, let's be especially nice!
Ellen Finder, Connie Kramer, this is my Mother and Father . . .
Grunt—
Mmph—
How do you do?
Pleased to meet you!
OOOOOHH! I'm dying of shame! There they go—saying something stupid again.
What kind of way is that to dress?
Which kinda way? This kinda way? All the kids dress like this at school.
That's ridiculous! Must you conform to the group? Haven't you got a mind of your own? Can't you be an individual?
They'd think I was some kind of nut! I wouldn't be accepted!
Hey, what kind of way is that to dress?
Which kind of way? This kind of way? All the men dress like this at the office!
That's ridiculous! Must you conform to the group? Haven't you got a mind of your own? Can't you be an individual?
They'd think I was some kind of . . . AH, SHADDUP! KIDS NOWADAYS HAVE SUCH BIG MOUTHS!
Are you serious? Those are "kid shoes"! I want high heels!
You know, Sam, she's right! She's ready for high heels!
How do you like that? My little girl, wearing high heels already! Next comes High School, then College, then she'll be getting married, and then she'll make me a Grandfather, and then it'll be time for me to retire! Gee, where have all the years gone?
David
How do you like them, Daddy?
Better leave your father alone. He's feeling very old and very sorry for himself.
Well, how do you like them, Mom?
Better leave me alone, too! I'm feeling the same way!



THE LOST SUNDAY COMIC STRIPS



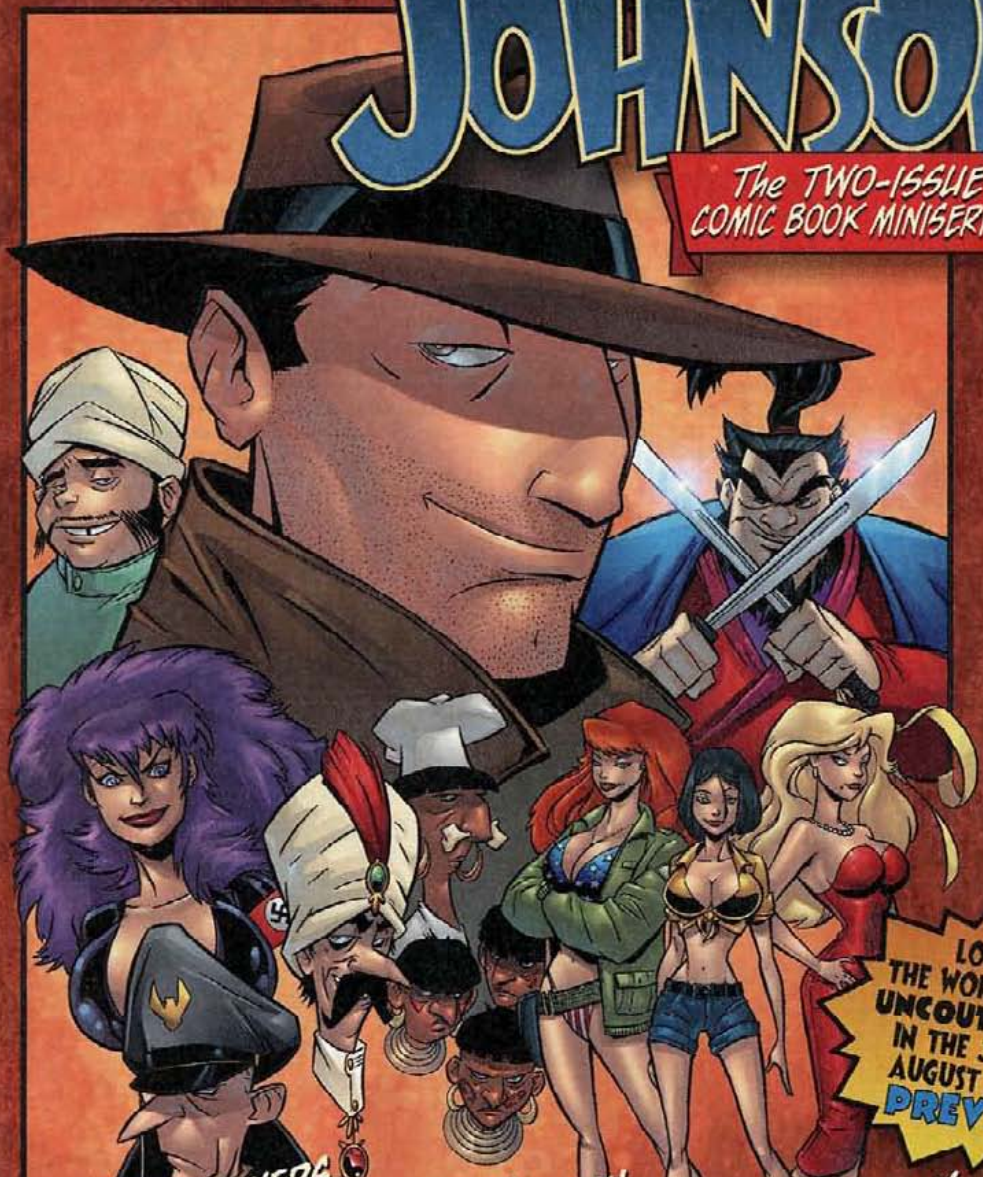
ARTIST: DAVE MANAK
WRITER: DUCK EDWING



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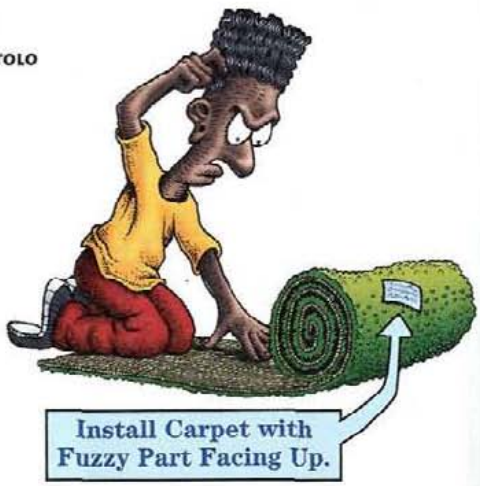
Americans are getting dumber with every generation. SAT scores are down. Fewer serious books are being published and, hell, if it weren't for the comic strip Nancy, nobody would be opening up a newspaper! But maybe there is no greater proof of just how far we've fallen in the intellectual department than the big increase in "helpful" instructions manufacturers feel compelled to put on their products. Not only do they now tell you to cut on the dotted line, they have to include a little picture of scissors! And don't you just love the envelopes that say, "Use a stamp. The Post Office will not deliver without postage"? Duh! And we fear all of this is just the beginning. How long will it be, brainiac, before you see these...

PRODUCT INSTRUCTIONS FOR A DUMBED-DOWN AMERICA

ARTIST: MONTE WOLVERTON WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO





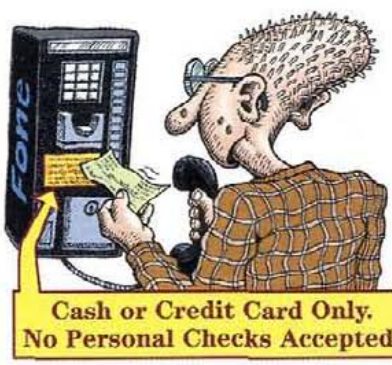












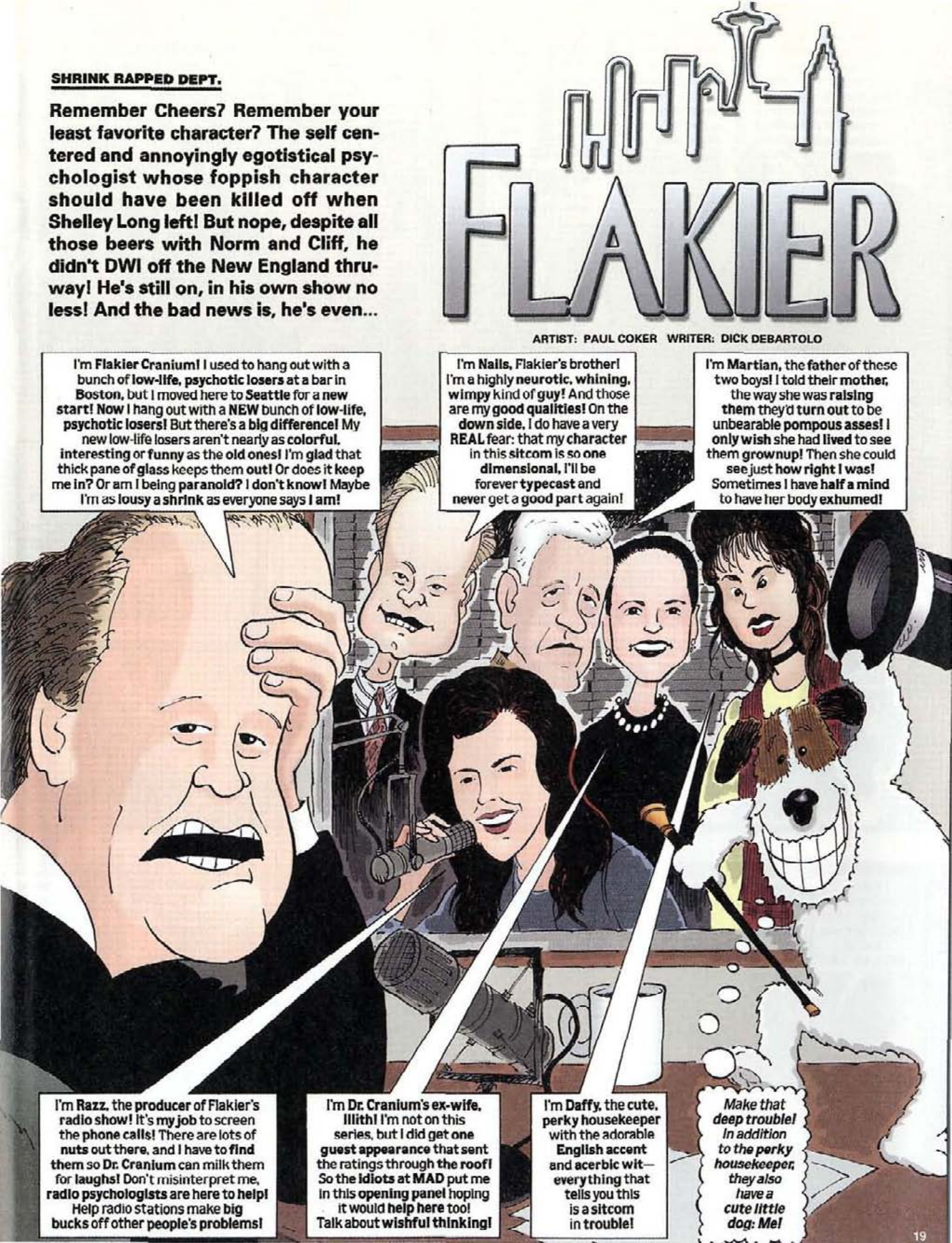
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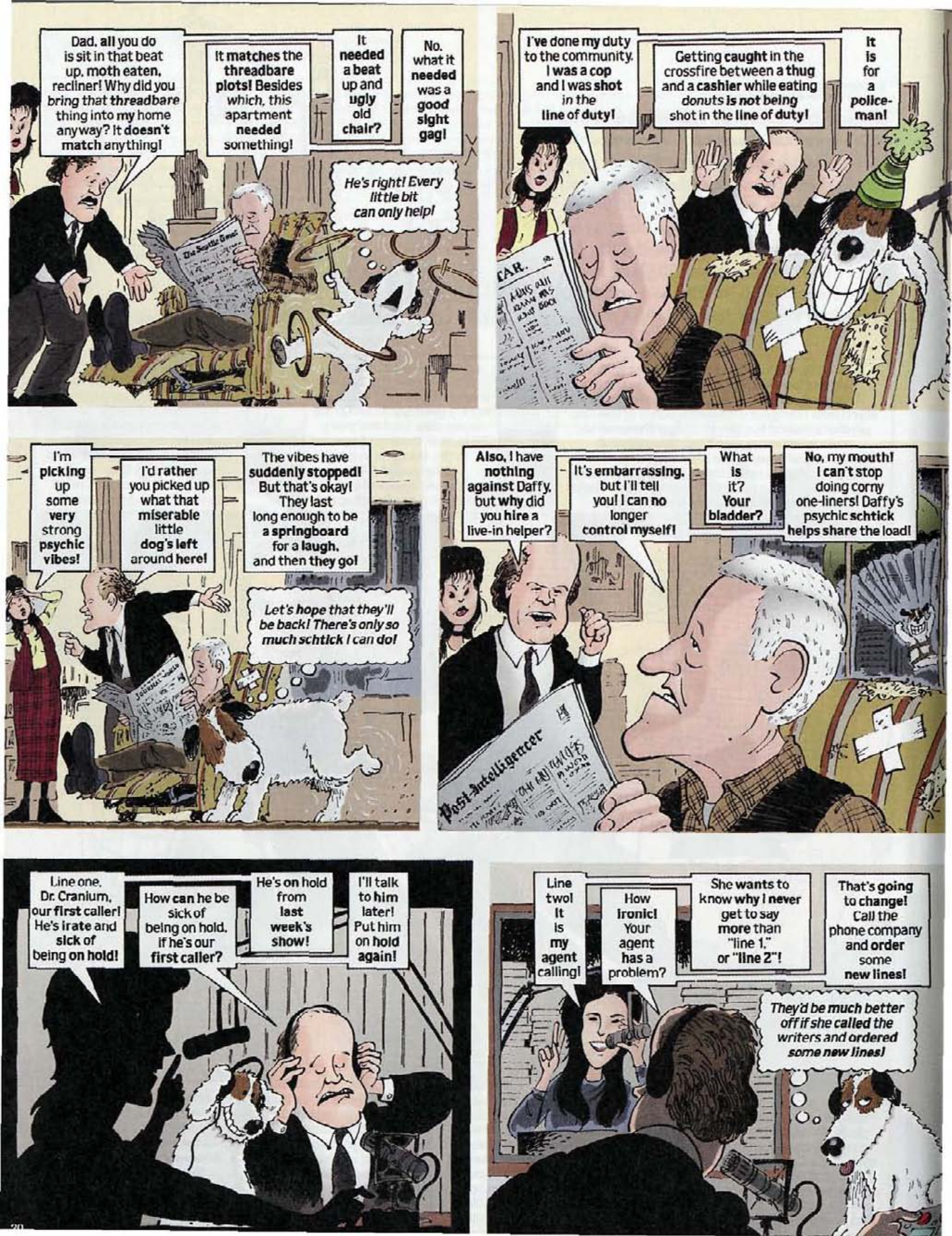
SHRINK RAPPED DEPT.

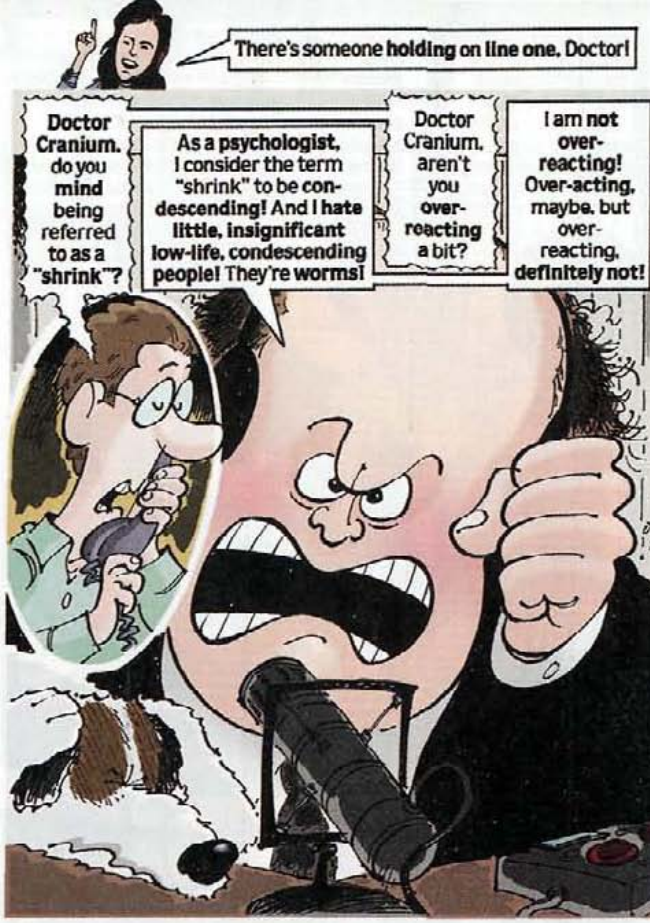
Remember Cheers? Remember your least favorite character? The self centered and annoyingly egotistical psychologist whose foppish character should have been killed off when Shelley Long left! But nope, despite all those beers with Norm and Cliff, he didn't DWI off the New England thruway! He's still on, in his own show no less! And the bad news is, he's even...

FLAKIER

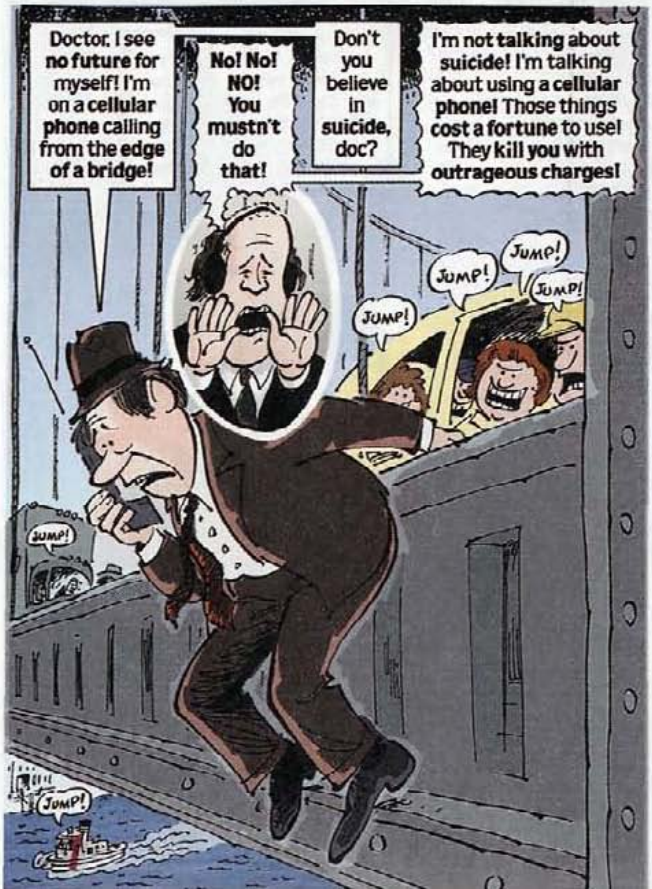
ARTIST: PAUL COKER WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

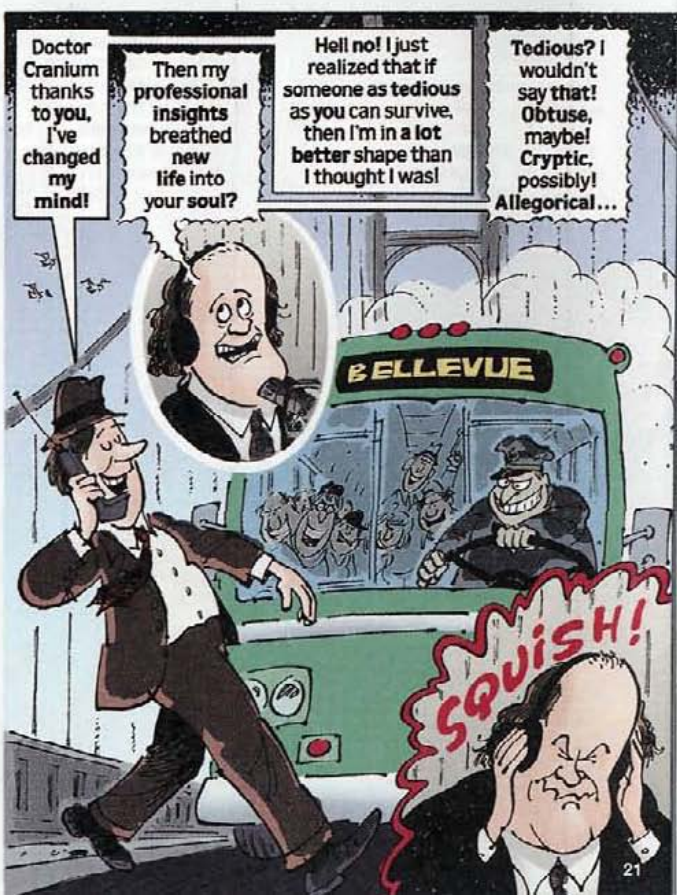



Dad, all you do is sit in that beat up, moth eaten, recliner! Why did you bring that threadbare thing into my home anyway? It doesn't match anything!
It matches the threadbare plots! Besides which, this apartment needed something!
It needed a beat up and ugly old chair?
No, what it needed was a good sight gag!
He's right! Every little bit can only help!
I've done my duty to the community. I was a cop and I was shot in the line of duty!
Getting caught in the crossfire between a thug and a cashier while eating donuts is not being shot in the line of duty!
It is for a police-man!
I'm picking up some very strong psychic vibes!
I'd rather you picked up what that miserable little dog's left around here!
The vibes have suddenly stopped! But that's okay! They last long enough to be a springboard for a laugh, and then they go!
Let's hope that they'll be back! There's only so much schtick I can do!
Also, I have nothing against Daffy, but why did you hire a live-in helper?
It's embarrassing, but I'll tell you! I can no longer control myself!
What is it? Your bladder?
No, my mouth! I can't stop doing corny one-liners! Daffy's psychic schtick helps share the load!
Post-Intelligencer
Line one, Dr. Cranium, our first caller! He's irate and sick of being on hold!
How can he be sick of being on hold, if he's our first caller?
He's on hold from last week's show!
I'll talk to him later! Put him on hold again!
Line two! It is my agent calling!
How ironic! Your agent has a problem?
She wants to know why I never get to say more than "line 1," or "line 2"!
That's going to change! Call the phone company and order some new lines!
They'd be much better off if she called the writers and ordered some new lines!


There's someone holding on line one, Doctor!
Doctor Cranium, do you mind being referred to as a "shrink"?
As a psychologist, I consider the term "shrink" to be condescending! And I hate little, insignificant low-life, condescending people! They're worms!
Doctor Cranium, aren't you over-reacting a bit?
I am not over-reacting! Over-acting, maybe, but over-reacting, definitely not!

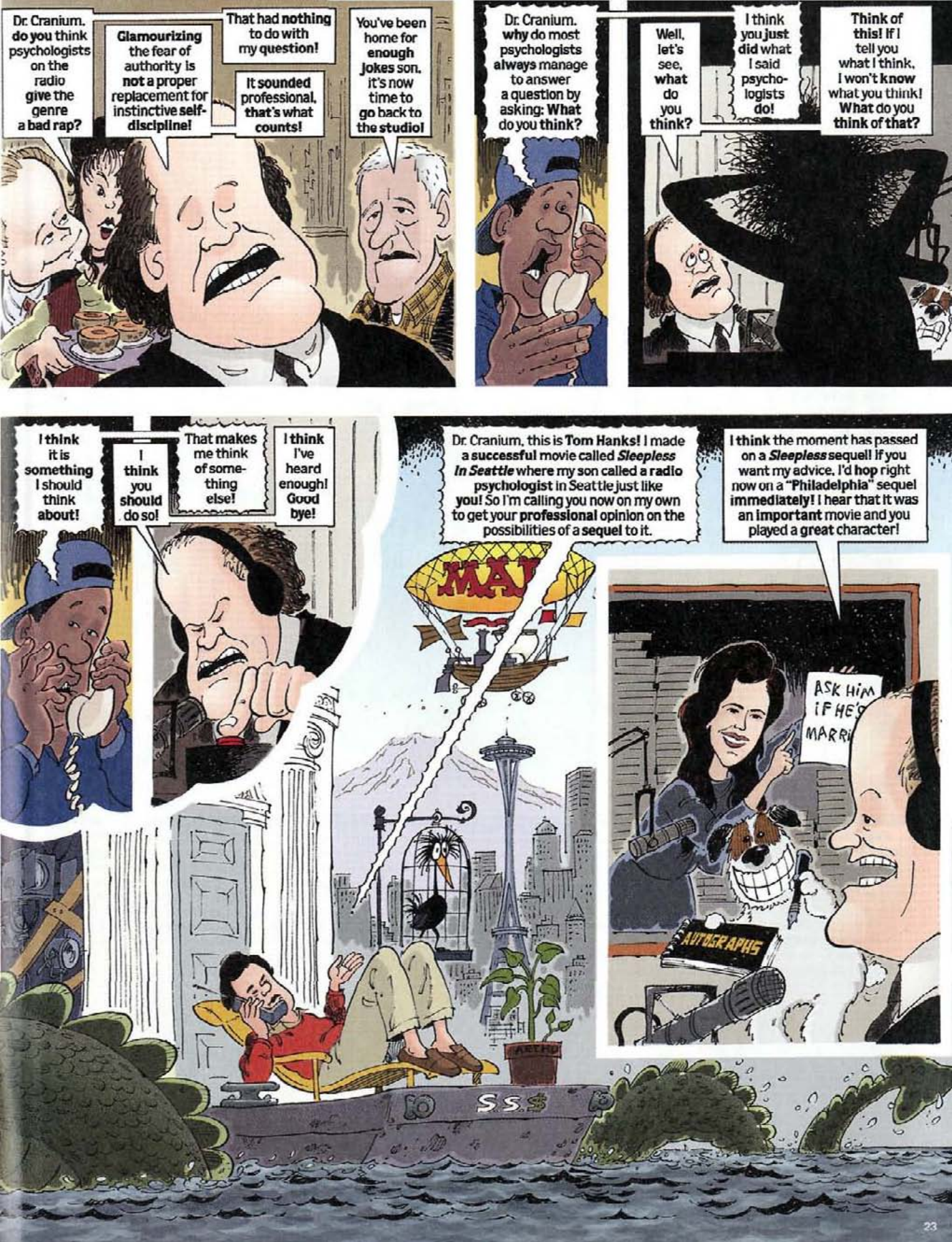

Line two, Doctor Cranium!
Why do psychologists talk in such esoteric terms?
Esoteric? I don't confabulate in esoteric terms! Obtuse, maybe! Cryptic, possibly! Allegorical, ambiguous, conceivably! But never, ever, esoteric!
There you go again, babbling on and on!
Babbling? No! Loquacious chattering, perhaps! Communicating verbosely, that's open to...
CLICK!


Doctor, I see no future for myself! I'm on a cellular phone calling from the edge of a bridge!
No! No! NO! You mustn't do that!
Don't you believe in suicide, doc?
I'm not talking about suicide! I'm talking about using a cellular phone! Those things cost a fortune to use! They kill you with outrageous charges!
JUMP!
JUMP!
JUMP!
JUMP!
JUMP!
JUMP!


Doctor Cranium thanks to you, I've changed my mind!
Then my professional insights breathed new life into your soul?
Hell no! I just realized that if someone as tedious as you can survive, then I'm in a lot better shape than I thought I was!
Tedious? I wouldn't say that! Obtuse, maybe! Cryptic, possibly! Allegorical...
BELLEVUE
SQUISH!



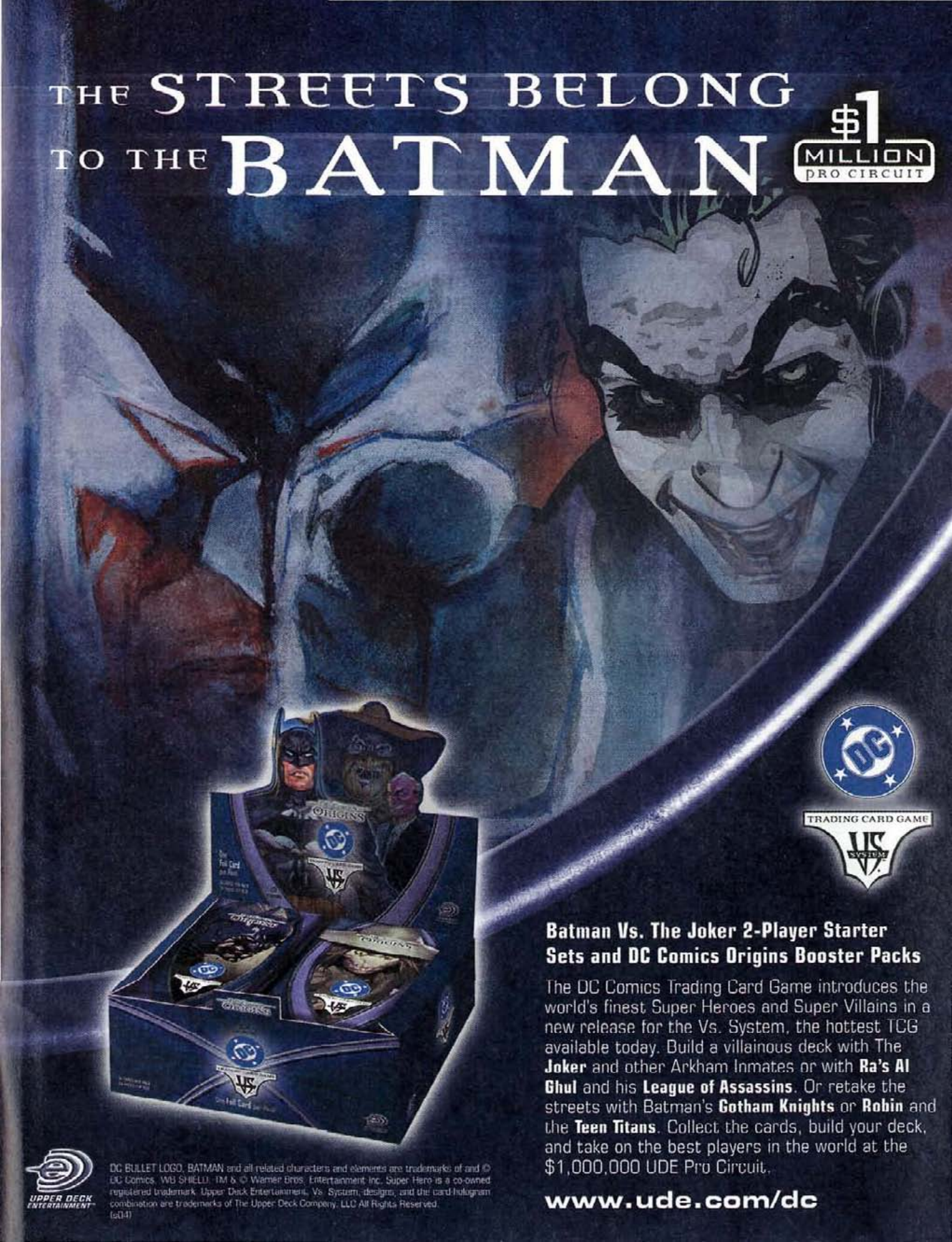
FDA: Forgives Disgusting Additives


Dr. Cranium, do you think psychologists on the radio give the genre a bad rap?
Glamourizing the fear of authority is not a proper replacement for instinctive self-discipline!
That had nothing to do with my question!
It sounded professional, that's what counts!
You've been home for enough jokes son, it's now time to go back to the studio!
Dr. Cranium, why do most psychologists always manage to answer a question by asking: What do you think?
Well, let's see, what do you think?
I think you just did what I said psycho-logists do!
Think of this! If I tell you what I think, I won't know what you think! What do you think of that?
I think it is something I should think about!
I think you should do so!
That makes me think of some-thing else!
I think I've heard enough! Good bye!
Dr. Cranium, this is Tom Hanks! I made a successful movie called Sleepless In Seattle where my son called a radio psychologist in Seattle just like you! So I'm calling you now on my own to get your professional opinion on the possibilities of a sequel to it.
I think the moment has passed on a Sleepless sequel! If you want my advice, I'd hop right now on a "Philadelphia" sequel immediately! I hear that it was an important movie and you played a great character!
ASK HIM IF HE'S MARRI
AUTOGRAPHS
MAI
$$$


Doctor Cranium, I'm so lonely! I spend weeks and months just sitting at home alone! Do you have any advice?
The question here is, why are you lonely? I suggest you spend some time at home alone and think about it!
Geez! I know your advice is free, but it's still a rip-off!
Do you think me talking to people while I'm sitting on the toilet bowl is gross?
Gross doesn't begin to describe such anal oriented behavior! It's vulgar, odorous and tasteless! And I know who you are—Howard!
Did I mention I made three million dollars doing exactly that on my New Year's Eve Special!
Three million dollars? Thanks for the call, Mr. Stern! He seems like a decent guy, doesn't he? Hmmm, three million dollars... Razz. have them install a line in the men's room!
If you'd like to talk to a lesbian, sado-masochist, or if you want to talk to me direct, dial 1-900-52-FLAKIER! Remember all calls are $4.95 a minute! And tonight's theme: Professional Ethics, Or Big Bucks—has been postponed indefinitely!
Dr. Cranium, do you feel your work stands on its own, or do you owe others for your success?
With rare exception, a person's body of work is greatly influenced by others! So, to be honest, my success is only about 99% my own doing, give or take 1%!
Glad to hear it, because I'm a Programing Exec at NBC, and we're moving another show into the slot following the mega-hit, Seinfeld! Your new lead-in will be DATELINE NBC!
NO! You can't do that! Being moved from my familiar surroundings would cut deep into my psyche! And deeper into my bank account! You mustn't forget what Freud said: "I have a huge mortgage on my house, and society won't get well until I pay it off! So PLEASE—leave my show where it is!"

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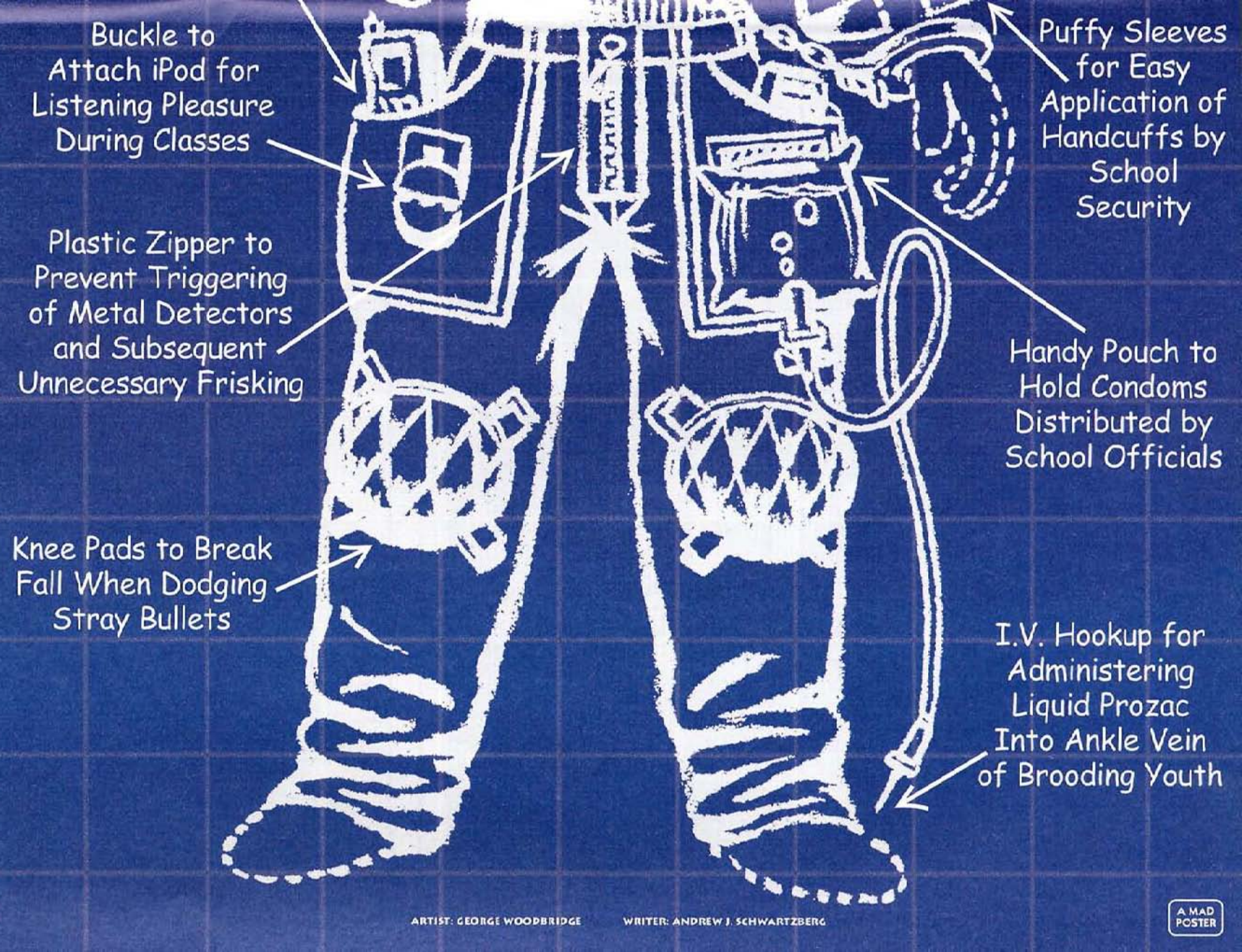
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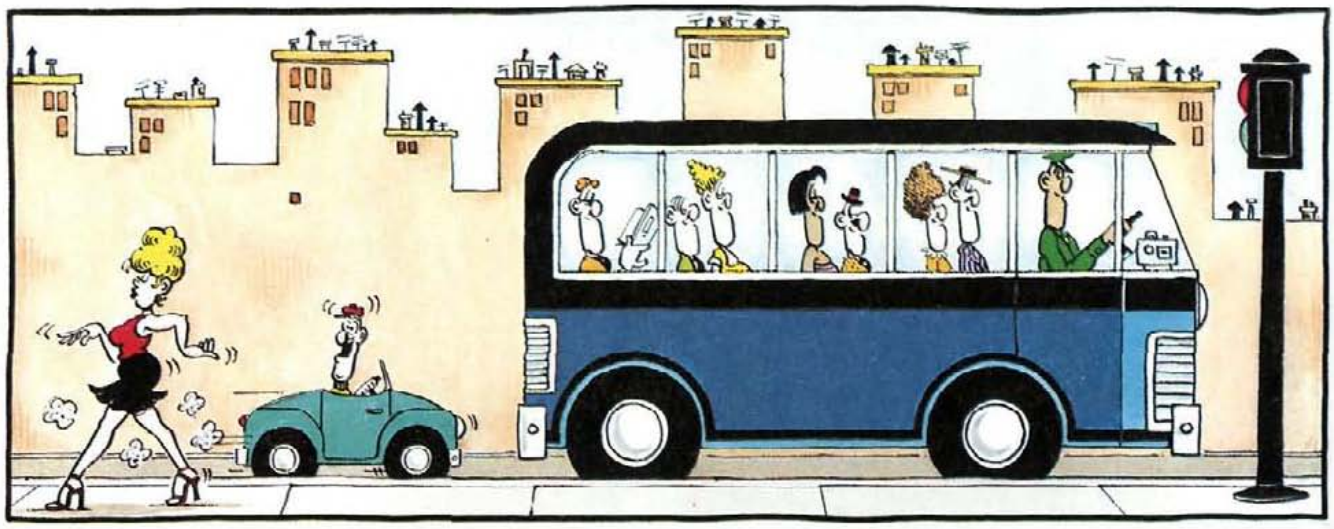
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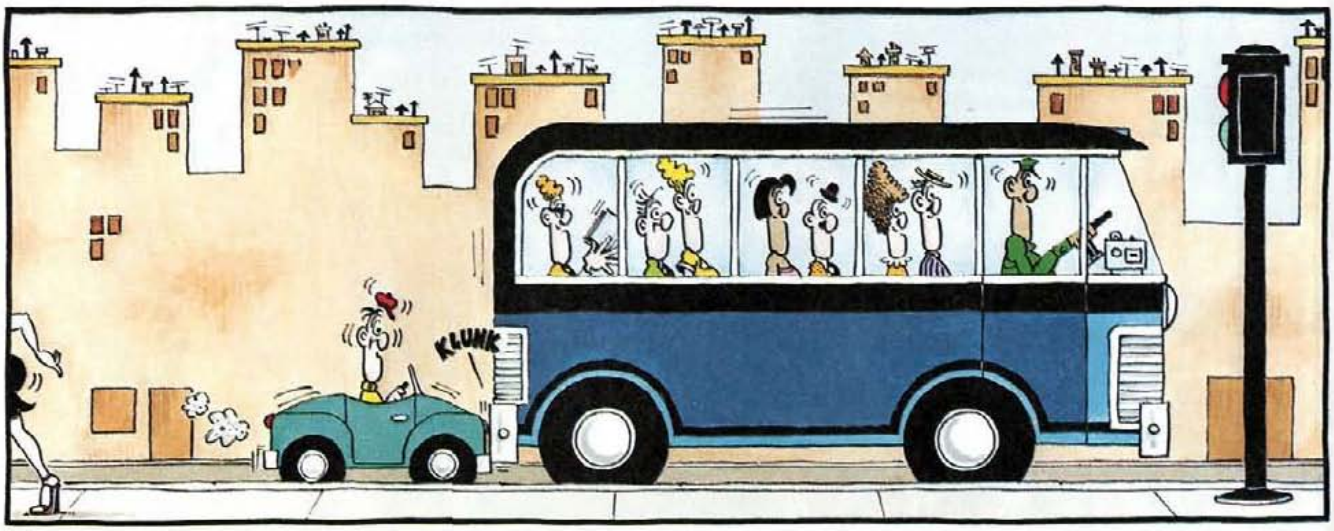
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#412 • APRIL 1, 1998

Entertain me WEAKLY



Special All Butt-Kissing Issue!

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

ALL THE STUDIO-GENERATED 'BUZZ' ON 475 NEW MOVIES

JIM CARREY'S ASS! WE PUCKER UP!

0 00909 34080 0 00>

Abigail Burns

I'm a recent college graduate. I have a lot of debt.

I can't believe they only gave me $60 for Great Grandma Ida's antique gold bracelet!

My monthly payments are so high, it's all I can afford for dinner. Makes its own gravy — just add water!

I had to have Goofus put to sleep — pets are so expensive!



When you go on Tuesdays they give you juice and cookies!

I had a harder time getting this than I did a pre-approved Visa card.

Visa Purchases:

Purchases? Haven't made any lately. With an annual interest rate of 18.5%, I'm still paying off stuff I charged freshman year! I'll be owing those Visa bastards money until the year 2015!

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A MAD AD PARODY

MAIL



Loveable Like A Fox

MICHAEL J. FOX AS TV's #1 most lovable star ("TV's 100 Most Lovable Stars," 3/24/98)? Come on! You need only look at *Party of Five*'s Neve Campbell to see she's got the former *Family Ties* star beaten! What were you thinking?!

JONATHAN ANNOYED
Irritable, S.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We were thinking that we were trying to get an interview with Fox at the time. We have since retallied our scores and now realize that Drew Carey is TV's most lovable star. See our exclusive interview with him in two weeks.*

David's Letter, Man

I LOVED YOUR RECENT issue, "The Summer Blockbusters, A Look Back!" (3/17/98). It was even better than "The Summer Blockbusters: A Look Ahead!" (5/17/97) and "The Summer Blockbusters: Special Preview Issue!" (5/24/97). I can't wait for next week's "The Summer Blockbusters: One Last Look!" I hope it measures up to your fantastic "The Summer Blockbusters: Winners and More Winners!" issue (7/5/97). Keep up the great work!

DAVE SUCKUP
Waitingroom, Tex.

WHILE I LOVED YOUR coverage on the summer blockbusters, I am concerned that you are neglecting the race for the Oscar.

FAWN SUMMORE
Anxious, N.J.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Following four weeks of Fall Blockbusters issues, we will have six months of uninterrupted pre- and post-Oscar coverage, including our special "The Oscar: Why We Wish Everyone Could Win!" issue.*

Sex And The Single Subscriber

THANK YOU FOR THE exclusive interview with Mel Gibson! Reading his intelligent and thought-provoking answers to some difficult issues proved what I always thought — I, for one, would love to have sex with him!

JANE TWITCHY
Holltenbothered, Mich.

YOUR ARTICLE ON Uma Thurman proved what I always thought — that a woman with smarts, class, and grace can still make it in Hollywood! I, for one, would love to have sex with her!

WOODY LONG
Boredstiff, Wis.

'Friends' In Need

YOU HAVEN'T RUN AN article on any of the *Friends* cast for two whole weeks now! What's going on?

VIC ARIOUSLY
Nolife, Tenn.

I THOUGHT THE MAILMAN must have been delivering the wrong magazine when, for the past two weeks, there was no *Friends* coverage. What happened?

NOAH LIFE
Vicarious, Ill.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *A printing error, coincidentally occurring on two consecutive weeks, coupled with the fact that we thought that the* Friends *craze was long over, resulted in the omission of all* Friends*-related articles. We are currently working on a Special* Friends *quadruple-issue to make up for this mishap.*

CORRECTIONS: *LeAnn Rimes did not die in a tragic vowel accident on Celebrity Week on* Wheel of Fortune *(News or Not). Richard Marx, not Harpo Marx, is working on a now album (Music). The photo on page 76 of Tori Spelling was misidentified as Mr. Ed (Encore).*

ENTERTAIN ME WEAKLY welcomes reader mail, as long as you gushingly agree with our writers and editors, or, if you have a differing opinion, as long as it is based on something so nit-picky that by printing it we make you look like an idiot with no life. Address letters to **ENTERTAIN ME WEAKLY**, 1675 Bootlick Way, New York, NY 10019. E-mail can be sent to *vacuum@ew.com*, where it will be read several months from now by the bored seven-year-old son of a secretary who didn't know what to do with him after his mid-afternoon dental appointment and stuck him at a desk in the computer room. Letters may be edited for clarity or excessive agreeability.

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PUPPIES
FREE TO A GOOD HOME: Cute, lab & shepherd mix, ten weeks old, 3 male, 2 female.

PRODUCTION
KISS & MAKEUP MANAGER: Mabel Leen
WOMAN WHO COMES IN ONCE A WEEK TO WATER THE FERNS: Maria
THAT FELLOW WHO FIXES THE COPY MACHINE IN THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT: Lou? Lenny? ... Larry? Something like that. The guy with the terminal plumber butt. Him. See if he can clear the paper jam in my fax.

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COPY CAT: "Copy Cat!"
SHUT UP!: "Shut Up!"
STOP SAYING EVERYTHING I SAAAAY!: "Stop saying everything I saaaay!"
MOM!: "Mom!"

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STAFF: /staf/, n.[OE staff] n. 1. body of assistants to a manager; 2. stick carried for support in walking or climbing, or used as a weapon
LOSE WEIGHT NOW, ASK ME HOW! We'll pay you to lose 30 pounds in 30 days! Call for details!
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NEWS Or NOT

April 1, 1998 // Gossip / Pap / Hype / And Stuff Like That // Edited by Albert Hodgepodge



THE ROAD TO (Box Office) RICHES

Try-Star's *Road to Zanzibar* remake will be the year's hottest movie. At least, that's what their Vice President of Publicity told me over an expensive dinner at Lutèce. by Gregg Hype

THE SCENE: SOUNDstage 34 on the Try-Star Lot. There's pure magic in the air — the type of pure magic that's created only when two legendary Hollywood superstars meet before the camera for the first time. **Redford** and **Newman. DeNiro** and **Pacino.** And now, **Pauly Shore** and **Carrot Top.**

The two venerable actors stand motionless on the set, waiting for the shout of "Roll 'em!" from first-time director **Paul Matteshot.** The moment is pure magic, just like we said in the first paragraph. "Yup, it's pure magic," Matteshot says. "The chemistry here is unbelievable."

What's *also* unbelievable was putting this whole thing together. "It wasn't easy," sighs Matteshot, 28, wearing a black T-shirt, jeans and sunglasses, like all cool directors do. "Assembling a cast of this caliber — these guys are hot, hot stars — and getting the rights to a 50-year-old Bob Hope and Bing Crosby *Road* picture took a lot of doing. I'm glad we're finally filming. This is the fun part."

What *wasn't* the fun part was signing the stars on in the first place. Shore, 32, was busy stealing furniture from the set of his failed FOX sitcom to re-furnish his empty apartment and didn't have time to think about another project. "They [Try-Star] approached me and I'm

like, 'Listen guys, don't talk to me now — I've got to get this couch into my van before security catches me.' But then they mentioned Carrot Top and I was like, into it," the affable Shore grins. "I like, quit my job as busboy at my mom's club [The Comedy Store] the next day. That's how into it I was."

Who *wasn't* into it, at least initially, was Carrot Top. The carrot-topped Carrot Top, 29, was booked solid for the next few days. "I told them, 'Great, but I have a gig next Monday at Norwalk Community College, and then the following Thursday I have to record three, four announcements for the Cartoon Network. How are we going to fit this in?'" When told that principal filming wouldn't start for three months, the reluctant red-headed prop comedian signed on. "I'm glad I did. This guy is like a brother," he says as he jokingly bops Shore on the head with a giant wooden tiki fork.

Not bopped on the head with a giant wooden tiki fork was **Bob Hope**, the nonagenarian star of the 1941 film *The Road to Zanzibar*. Hope, who owns the rights to all of the *Road* pictures, was reluctant about seeing an updated version done. "He wasn't afraid that our version would diminish the original," explains producer **Ivan Bombe.** "It was just, well, Bob's getting on in years, and he couldn't hear us when we made an offer."

Who *could* hear were Matteshot and Bombe, who were able to clinch the deal with Hope after wooing him over a round of golf. "It was the longest and strangest game I've ever played," laughs Matteshot. "At one point, Bob thought he was at a USO show and started telling jokes to a flock of Canadian geese by a water hazard. We eventually got him to sign the contract by putting it in the inside cover of his autobiography, *Don't Shoot, It's Only Me!* and asking for his autograph."

Who *didn't* ask for his autograph was actor **Jim "Ernest" Varney**, who was originally up for the Shore (nee Hope) role. "I begged for the part but they had already signed Pauly, so they asked me to read for the part of Alyssa [Shore's leading lady]. I did and they loved it! This is the best role I've had since *Ernest Goes to See Howard the Duck*. I'm thrilled."

But will audiences be thrilled? Try-Star is counting on it. As this story was going to press, the film studio had just signed on **Margot Kidder**, **Chevy Chase**, and **a guy in a gorilla suit** for supporting roles. It may not be *The Wiz* but this is one movie that's sure to ease on down the road — to box-office success! ■

The Road Les Traveled

THROUGHOUT HOLLYWOOD history, films with the word "road" in their title have always been hotter than the baking asphalt on Ventura Boulevard on a blazing August afternoon. Witness this long, uninteresting, insight-less, and by no means complete list of movies that one of our fact-checkers compiled while leafing through a Leonard Maltin film encyclopedia during his lunch break in an effort to earn an extra twenty bucks and get his first byline. And while Leslie Nielsen appeared in none of the following films, we needed to include him in the introduction to this piece to justify its unbelievably witty title, regardless of the fact that this set-up makes little, if any, sense. —*David Himom*

- The Road to Yesterday (1925)
- *The Road to Glory (1936)*
- The Road Back (1937)
- Road Show (1941)
- Hit the Road (1941)
- Tobacco Road (1941)
- Road House (1948)
- Roadblock (1951)
- *The Road to Denver (1955)*
- Kings of the Road (1976)
- Roadie (1980)
- Roadgames (1981)
- The Road Warrior (1982)
- High Road to China (1983)
- Roadhouse 66 (1984)
- *Roadside Profits (1992)*
- Road Scholar (1993)
- The Road to Wellville (1994)
- Roadracers (1994)
- The Road Killers (1995)
- Road House (1989)

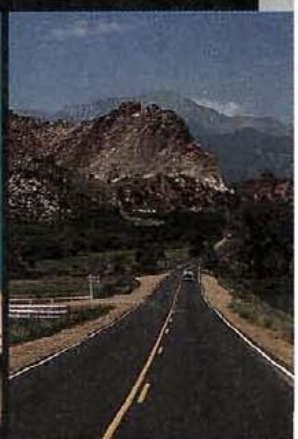
THE LONG AND WINDING HISTORY OF MOVIES WITH 'ROAD' IN THEIR TITLE:



Non-road movie star Leslie Nielsen



Nancy Walker of TV's *Rhoda*



A picture of a road

jim moron

thinks he's

HOT Sh*t

What the country isn't talking about this week...

1 Me I'm so hilarious I don't write for TV but come up with 15 "jokes" once a week for a magazine where the "serious" content is inadvertently funnier than my spin on "current" events.

2 The Spice Girls The British pop group is from Britain, but one would think that they are from the Spice Islands. Because they have the word "Spice" in their name.

3 Me Again No, wait! I may not exist and may in fact be nothing more than a team of the very unfunniest ENTERTAIN ME WEEKLY editors who fancy themselves comedians.

4 The Spice Girls Again Spice Girls books are already hitting the stores. Maybe they're cookbooks. Because you use spices when you cook. Get it?



5 Jay Leno *The Tonight Show* host rides motorcycles. Hey Jay, you have a big chin.

6 Inflation Prices on various things continue to skyrocket. Gee, no wonder they call it "inflation."

7 Paper Clips They clip together one or more sheets of paper. But I use them to dig wax out of my ears.

8 "Sporty Spice" I bet when the sporty, active Spice Girl gets sweaty she smells good and spicy.

9 "Scary Spice" Hey, you want scary spice? Bite down on a clove on a piece of baked ham on Christmas Day, and then your filling falls out and then try to find a dentist.

10 Saturday Night Live More like *Saturday Night Dead*. Ha!

11 Ellen DeGeneres She came out of the closet last April. Maybe this is why she's known as a "lesbian."

12 Roseanne She'll soon be hosting her own talk show. Hey, Roseanne, the last season of your sitcom sucked.

13 UPN It has many bad shows, including one with former *Jeffersons* star Sherman Hemsley. Hey, George Jefferson, where's Weezy?

14 CBS The network's logo is an eye. It's like it's watching you or something. Instead of you watching it. Or something.

15 "Posh Spice" They were going to call her "Osh Kosh B'Gosh Spice" but that took up too much room on CD liner notes. Also, it made no sense, much like my entire column.

poster notes

Grisham & Bear It

FILMGOERS WAITING in line for popcorn at the local theater have been doing more double-takes lately than John Birch Society members at a **Spike Lee**-crashed meeting. Two strangely similar movie posters for two very different films are the reason why. The latest **John Grisham** adaptation, *The Bench* (see poster, above left) is a live-action flick about a crooked, corrupt judge who has met his match in a by-the-book, two-fisted D.A., while *The Happy Bears in Funshine City* (above, right) is an animated film about two bears who bring joy to Gloom Town. That, however, is where the dis-similarities end — at least as far as the movie posters are concerned.



SEEING DOUBLE: Posters for the upcoming films *The Bench*, left, and *The Happy Bears in Funshine City*.

Both films advertise their titles at the top of the poster, followed by a large image of the films' main character(s). Additionally, where *Happy Bears* promises to be "opening soon," *The Bench* employs the like-meaning "coming soon." No-Line Cinema (distributor of *The Bench*) spokesperson Terri Casting-Couch insists that the similarities are unintentional. "To be honest," she says, "yours is the first call we've gotten on this." Despite this potential matinee mix-up, one thing's certain: movie-goers may or may not enjoy either or both of these films when they finally do open! — *Chris Wishywashy*

CYBERSQUAWK

NYPD LEWD

"I'm sitting here naked and ready. What are you wearing?"

— *NYPD Blue's* DENNIS FRANZ, signed on under his secret 'naughty' screen name in America Online's HotCop4HotLady chat room

"Can't you use me for getting your coffee or something? Vacuuming your dressing room? Anything?"

— Former *Family Ties* actress TINA YOTHERS crashing Michael J. Fox's chat on Compuserve, looking for work

"No, for the last time, it's absolutely untrue! Please, does anyone have any questions that don't pertain to this?"

—RICHARD GERE on Prodigy



TRAVOLTA THEN...



...AND FIFTY LBS. LATER

FLASHERS

TRAVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT Talk about staying alive! Since appearing in *Primary Colors*, *Face/Off* and *Mad City*, it may seem that mega-actor **John Travolta** has always been a big name movie star just like **Clint Eastwood**, right? Not so, say industry insiders. "Before hitting it big, Travolta was on a sitcom called *Welcome Back Kotter*!" explains Nick at Nite exec Margaret Cathode-Ray who once saw **Ted Danson** getting off a plane in Newark. "He played a wacky 'Kramer' [the character played by **Michael Richards** on *Seinfeld*] sort of oddball who attended law school in the midwest," reports Larry Porkrind, an avid TV aficionado who claims to remember the show, but has never met **Sandra Bullock**. A spokesperson for Mr. Travolta, who is a big fan of **Jay Leno**, had no official comment. Look who's NOT talking now! —*Anna Whaaat*

BOOK 'EM, DANNO What would **Martin Scorcese** say? That's what everyone from **Alanis Morissette** to the late **John Candy** was asking last week about an autobiography about *M*A*S*Her* **Gary Burghoff** penned by *Amistad* star **Matthew McConaughey**, entitled *Radar Love: I Never Slept With* **Cindy Williams**. The book not only made it into **Oprah Winfrey's** bookclub, but also appeared in the background of a recent episode of **Tim Allen's** *Home Improvement*. "It's great publicity for a first time author such as McConaughey," says Jon Galley, of Boldtext Books, which has signed **Teri Hatcher, Mickey Rooney**, and **Lucy Lawless** to similar deals. Other celebs who haven't been signed to similar deals but whose names we thought you'd like to see in bold type: **Tom Cruise, Claire Danes** and **Julia Louis-Dreyfuss.** What would **Goldie Hawn** say? —*Heidi Naimdropp*

EARRING OF TRUTH What's the biggest selling item in Chiu's Discount Jewelry and Liquor Store in Venice, California? If you said the earrings that **Cameron Diaz** is seen wearing in her latest film, *Groping The Pope*, well, you'd be wrong. "Our biggest selling item is the beer and cigarettes we sell to underage teens," says Anna Chiu, shortly before losing her business license. "But if you want earrings, we got 'em for just three bucks." Michelle Spensaccount, the film's costume designer, never dreamed that the earrings would become popular. And in fact, they haven't. "They're only in the film for a second. You can't even see them. Besides, they are just flat out ugly," says Spensaccount. Only one thing's for sure: The ears have it! — *Kristen Badwrite*

figure it out

WHETHER IT'S a celeb book, Hollywood trend or the dissection of a popular movie, there's no easier way of filling up empty space in EW than by listing specific figures which no one cares *about. We do it* almost every issue, and it never fails. Don't believe us? See for yourself.



- Number of statistics in the average "figure it out" piece: 8
- Number of statistics that are actually interesting in the average "figure it out" piece: 1
- Number of uninteresting statistics in the average "figure it out" piece: 7
- Number of carefully re-worded set-ups which give essentially the same information in the average "figure it out" piece: 2
- Number of column inches eaten up by the average "figure it out" piece: 7
- Number of extremely boring facts in each "figure it out" piece *included simply to drag out* minimal information to sidebar length: 3
- Number of other sections in which the "figure it out" subject matter will be mentioned in the same issue, making the average "figure it out" piece terribly repetitive: 3 ("Winners and Losers," the book review, "Random Quote") — *Jessica Scrawl*



<< ran-dumb quote

"I was the one that said, 'Kiss my grits!' on *Alice*. Remember me? Sure you do."

— FORMER TV WAITRESS POLLY HOLLIDAY (FLO), HOPING TO GET A BREAK ON A DRY CLEANING BILL

Even Unfunnier EW Spoofs

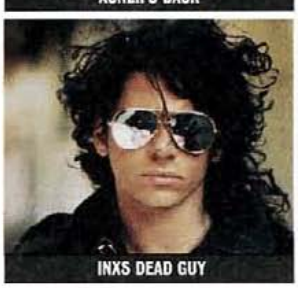
By Barely Blitzed



Monotone



ASNER'S BACK



INXS DEAD GUY

ANNOYING *Live* hostess, Kathie Lee Gifford, 44, in New York City, due to extreme perkiness and "spontaneous" anecdotes about her children... Martha Stewart, 56, in Fairfield, Connecticut, for faked sincerity and general smarminess....George Kennedy, 73, for those *Breath Asure* commercials.

HAIRY The backside of Ed Asner, 68, ranging from approximately his buttocks up to his neck and shoulders, but not his head.

MISSING That woman who played the upstairs neighbor on *Three's Company* who always tried to get Jack in bed. Remember her? She was on for, like, one season. What was her name? Rhonda? Rona? Mona? Something like that... Whatever happened to her? Whatever happened to Janet for that matter?

FOUND Hand-crocheted eyeglasses case with sunflower design, September 28, in *EW* elevator lobby. If it belongs to you, please contact Christine in Reception.

ARRESTED Adding to the seemingly endless list of *Diff'rent Strokes* stars-or-people-remotely-associated-with-the-show-turned-criminals is Joshua Lahtay, 34, who received a parking ticket when the time in his meter ran out in a Burbank parking lot. Lahtay appeared on the show only once as Willis' friend, Chuck. Contrary to published reports such as the one headlining this piece, Lahtay was not actually arrested. A spokesperson for Gary Coleman had no comment but did send an autographed 8x10 inscribed, "To Joshua, Whatchoo talkin' 'bout, Meter Maid? All the best, Gary Coleman."

DEAD That guy from INXS. We don't remember his name and you probably don't either. Believe us, it shook the rock world six months ago, when we forgot to mention it. Oops.



MOBY DOG Though seen here happily clowning for the cameras in a recent publicity shot, insiders say that Bud (left) and Willie are not getting along

Whale of a (Dog) Tail

MAMMALS **Meal time woes, a chilly atmosphere, and slanderous grumblings plague the set of a so-called family film where the two stars apparently hate each other.** **by Rue Mermonger**

Lights! Camera! Tension!

On screen they play best buddies in the upcoming and highly anticipated *Free Willie 4: Air Willie: Killer Whales Can't Jump*. But according to several people vaguely connected to the project, there's more bad blood between the film's stars, Willie the Whale and Bud the Dog *(Air Bud)*, than Fred Goldman and O.J. Simpson.

It started last year when Willie had one of his frequent temper tantrums and fired a string of expletives at the canine actor. Instead of chastising the whale for unprofessional behavior, director Mark Wideangle sided with Willie and canceled shooting for the day. This, insiders say, was just one of many instances where Willie was coddled.

"The atmosphere on the set was clearly pro-Willie. They spoiled him, and gave him insane perks — like all the sushi he could eat," noted an unimportant extra whose name wouldn't mean anything to anyone, yet still requested anonymity. But while Willie was reportedly treated to gourmet delights, his co-star Bud was reportedly forced to eat dog food, which an unsubstantiated report reportedly reports may have reportedly contained horse meat.

Yet others who were there disagree. "That prima donna mutt was the one getting the special treatment," notes another unimportant bystander who really adds nothing to the validity of this article. "He was eating food specially prepared for him — food that none of the rest of us were allowed to eat. And sushi for Willie? I don't think so. That poor whale was forced to eat raw fish — huge amounts of it!"

There are definitely two camps on the set: "You're either a Willie person or a Bud person. There's no in-between," says yet another anonymous source with a dubious association to the film. "A lot of the heat is on the whale, but let me tell you, Bud's no angel, either. In the middle of a scene, he just decided to take a leak, right there in front of everybody. You expect more from an actor of his caliber!"

Complicating matters, both of the high-profile stars insisted on bringing their own people with them to the project. Willie wanted a team of whale experts, while Bud insisted on using his own trainers. On top of that, the whale requested — and got — an enormous 5,000 gallon seawater tank to swim in, while the dog demanded a Frisbee and a supply of tennis balls to play with between scenes.

"Whenever you bring together two mammals of completely different species — one land-dwelling, one sea-dwelling — there are bound to be a few difficulties. That's just the way it is," notes a person who doesn't even exist, and who this author just made up to get another quote in. And, in fact, there does seem to be some truth to the rumors that the animals want nothing to do with each other.

For example, Willie has never been seen romping with Bud, although his trainers dismiss this with the unlikely excuse, "It's physically impossible for a 2,000+ pound whale to 'romp' on land." Willie's people, on the other hand, insist the dog isn't permitted to swim in the marine mammal's tank because "Bud's shedding right now and all that hair raises hell with Willie's blowhole."

Only time will tell if the behind-the-scenes animosity between Willie and Bud will be apparent on screen. Regardless, these animal "stars" are just inconsequential enough that we felt comfortable burning a bridge and turning our normally brown-nosing magazine into a forum for letting people make unpleasant and unsubstantiated accusations in a misguided effort to actually print something semi-interesting and almost controversial.

Blow that out your blowhole, Willie.

The Weak

Reviews by OWEN HOOBERBLOOB and LISA SCHMALTZBOMB

New Releases

HINDENBURG (Faux, PG-13) I'd be dishonest if I didn't tell you up front that my eyes welled up with tears during director James Cameron's latest disaster epic. But I'd also be dishonest if I didn't tell you that the air in the theater was very dry and dusty and that I should have replaced my disposable contact lenses three weeks earlier because they were scratching the hell out of my corneas.

Bill Paxton stars as Gunter Von Zipper, an impoverished young seaman who convinces Captain Klaus Brickenbrach (George C. Scott) to give him a job scraping barnacles off the hull of the magnificent airship, the Hindenburg. But because the Hindenburg is an airborne contraption that doesn't go near the water, virtually no barnacles attach themselves to the zeppelin's hull, and Von Zipper is left with a great deal of time on his hands.

Enter Helen Hunt as Marian Blueblood, a beautiful but bored, young socialite trapped in a bad marriage to her obnoxious husband Louis (Billy Zane). She meets Gunter and the fireworks start, figuratively speaking. (The real fireworks don't start until the end of the movie when — not to reveal anything, but — the airship explodes and most of the cast dies, but not the two main characters.) As an exciting romantic adventure, *Hindenburg* succeeds on a grand scale. But as an action-thriller featuring colorful costumed superheroes fighting against even more colorful arch-villains, it fails miserably, most notably due to its lack of action-adventure, costumed superheroes and arch-villains.

Tension is built masterfully with steady pacing throughout the film and we're kept on the edge of our seat wondering what will happen next. Will the two leads survive the explosion to live to their golden years when they will narrate their powerful story in flashback form, as we see in the beginning of the movie? And what of Louis, over whose tombstone (dated May 6, 1937 and bearing a bas-relief image of the Hindenburg) we see the aged Paxton and Hunt characters leaning over during the first two minutes of the film? What will happen to him? Will he survive?

Even more glorious about *Hindenburg* is that the whole spectacle is thoroughly entrenched in the era. Our first glimpse of the mighty blimp is in Germany, in April of 1937. How do we know? Director Cameron doesn't miss a trick: He runs "Germany, 1937" across the bottom of the screen. Additionally, Costume Director Linda Clotheshorsch did a magnificent job of dressing all the characters in clothes that people would have worn in that year! No detail was overlooked in making *Hindenburg* as historically accurate as possible. They even went as far as to hire some actors with German accents — or actors who can emulate German accents — to lend the film still more credibility.

The guts of any dirigible movie are, of course, the high-tension confrontation between the guy who goes around making sure no one smokes cigarettes, pipes or cigars and the people who normally smoke cigarettes, pipes or cigars, forgetting that they are on a hydrogen-filled, potentially explosive airship. In this case, Cameron has turned it up a few notches by populating the passenger list with expectant fathers, peer-pressured teenagers trying to look cool and women with PMS.

That sixty years later we would be celebrating the agonizing, burning deaths of a third of the Hindenburg's passengers through this, a glorious event movie, is a credit to everyone involved in this fantastic production; indeed, to everyone in Hollywood: **A+** —*OH*

In Theaters

DIRIGIBLE PARK (PG) Steven Spielberg masterfully casts Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern as zeppelintologists who are the guests of a brilliant inventor (Sir Richard Attenborough) on a tropical isle. Our first glimpse of his proudest invention, the Hindenburg, is indeed breathtaking. But before long the blimps turn against their very creators and start exploding. The final result is not so much a tribute to Michael Crichton's original novel as it is to the computer animators and the people at Goodyear. **B+** —*OH*

HINDEN THE LOVE BURG (G) *Familiar live-action page from* Dizzney featuring Dean Jones, Suzanne Pleshette and Buddy Hackett as, respectively, a race-dirigible driver, his girlfriend and a mechanic trying to beat the villainous Keenan Wynn and Terry Thomas in a race across the Atlantic. Kids and adults will love the stunt blimp-driving, but the sudden fiery explosion at the end, killing everyone, might frighten the very young. **B-** —*LS*

HYDROGEN BITES (R) Ben Stiller, Janeane Garafalo and Winona Ryder star as angst-ridden 20-somethings in this dramedy set in 1937. Three recent college grads celebrate by traveling from Germany to America via airship. While the first 85 minutes is nothing but complaining, sarcastic dialogue about how boring their lives are because *Schoolhouse Rock* and *H.R. Pufnstuf* have not yet been created, the film eventually transcends this during the last five minutes when the hapless trio climb to the top of the blimp to share a joint, which causes a catastrophic explosion. **C+** —*LS*

AIRSHIP! (PG) The Zucker brothers are at it again, this time bringing their goofy parody series back in time to the 1930s. Leslie Nielsen stars as the hopelessly inept Frahnk Drobbensteig, captain of the mighty Hindenburg, who must fly from Germany to the U.S. while a passenger roster of cheap and available C-list actors and "Weird Al" Yankovic act silly and take references literally, always with impossibly straight faces. **B-** —*OH*



HOT STUFF, BABY: Hunt and Paxton feel the heat in *Hindenburg*



HOT STUFF, BABY: Ryder feels the heat in *Hydrogen Bites*

WHAT to WATCH?

A day-to-day guide to programs based solely on which networks bought ad space in this issue.

MONDAY

April 6

9-10PM
ALLY McWHINE (Fox, TV-ZZZ) In this week's outing (indistinguishable from any other week's) the irrepressibly spunky and supposedly intelligent Ally goes on a date and then (Ready for this?) — *when her date uses a* cliché or a figure of speech — the scene cuts to Ally's mind's literal interpretation of it! Fun for the whole family, if the whole family consists of no one but lonely, bitter, single women who eat Oreos by the bagful and read the comic strip Cathy. Not recommended for men of any age.

8-8:30PM
COSBY'S PUDDIN' PLACE (CBS, TV-G) In an effort to boost ratings, Bill Cosby unveils a newly revamped version of his ailing sitcom where he plays a pudding factory owner who makes extra money by converting the factory's unused storeroom into a preschool for precocious children, who he teaches while wearing colorful sweaters.

8:30-9PM
SOLE MAN (ABC, TV-G) Dan Aykroyd asks God for guidance when he suddenly realizes he now stars in an unfunny sitcom where he is constantly upstaged by 10-year-old children.

9:30-10PM
THE NAKED TROOF (NBC, TV-PG) While covering a charity baseball game for The National Conquistador, Nona (Téa Leoni) is hit in the mouf with a foul ball, knocking out her two front teef and preventing her from pronouncing the "th" sound.



TEA FOR TOOTH

10-11PM
NYPD BLEW (ABC, TV-14-LS) Featured: Sipplewitz's and Medahoy's asses, the word "asshole," five demeaning *words for women's* breasts we can't print, and the term "Christ Almighty!"

TUESDAY

April 7

8:30-9PM
NOBODY LOVES RAYMOND (CBS, TV-G) Raymond contemplates suicide.

9-10PM
BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SAYER (WB, TV-PG) Buffy recites the names "Dracula," "Lestat," "Nosferatu," "Chocula," and "Barnabas Collins," again and again. And again. And again. An hour of this!



SCOOBY, DON'T

10-11PM
ROAD RUDES (MTV, TV-PG) With half of the group hanging their asses out the windows, and the other half fighting over who gets to drive while the vehicle is in motion, MTV's famous Winnebago plunges off a cliff at 75 miles per hour. (Returns in two weeks with fresh new faces, a new RV, and higher insurance rates for a sixth season.)

10PM-2AM
SCOOBY-DOO, WHAT THE HELL? (CNW, TV-G) Cartoon Network's continuing and gradual change into a 24-hour Scooby-Doo channel offers us yet another four hours of the cowardly Great Dane, bringing the current Doo total to 36 episodes per day. Tonight's entries include mysterious goings-on at a lighthouse, in a topless bar near an airport, at an abandoned amusement park, at a Swedish massage parlor, in a warehouse, in a sweatshop in the garment district, at an old museum, and in the warehouse of an abandoned lighthouse museum prompting Scooby and the gang to investigate.

The Guest B-List



Look Who's on The Couch Again This Week!

RICHARD SIMMONS

ROSIE O'DONNELL **Monday** the great grandpuppy of the original dog from *Annie* **Tuesday** the inventor of the Ring-Ding **Wednesday** some sad pop cultural footnote from the '70s who no one but Rosie is interested in **Thursday** a Muppet **Friday** a box of fudge

DAVID LETTERMAN **Monday** *boring CBS news* anchor filling in for no-show Richard Simmons **Tuesday** some 12-year-old with a dubious 15-minutes-of-fame story **Wednesday** Tony Randall **Thursday** a musical guest Dave won't bother to feign interest in **Friday** "colorful" NYC resident Dave is currently making fun of, Tony Randall filling in for no-show boring CBS news anchor

JAY LENO (on vacation; reruns will be shown, here's who's on the darkened set this week...) **Monday** a mouse building a nest in the sofa **Tuesday** an *exterminator* **Wednesday** three Teamsters on break from building a set next door for *NewsRadio* **Thursday** guys from the lighting crew, taking pictures of themselves for amusing Christmas cards **Friday** Luis the Janitor, nursing a hangover

TOM SNYDER **Monday** the guy who Tom always talks to off-camera, author Dean Koontz **Tuesday** the guy who always laughs at Tom's jokes off-camera, author Anne Rice **Wednesday** Dean Koontz, Anne Rice **Thursday** Anne Rice, Dean Koontz **Friday** Polaroids from a staff party Tom mistakenly thinks are interesting, Dean Koontz

REVOLT CONTROL

Kvetching about TV by Bruce Ferret

Eight years after her passing, Lucille Ball makes a triumphant comeback on ABC's hot new sitcom.

LUCILLE BALL HAS had audiences doubling over in laughter since the debut of her landmark first sitcom in 1951. And we've been laughing ever since. I mean, not literally. We haven't been laughing continually. How would we eat or talk or even breathe if we were laughing non-stop for the last 46 years? But despite Lucy's amazing track record, I was apprehensive about her new sitcom, **Where's Lucy?** *(ABC, Wednesdays, 8-8:30 p.m.),* especially since the lovable, deceased redhead is dead. But after watching the pilot, I changed my mind. The premise is pure Lucy: a befuddled husband, Arnie Hargrove (WKRP's Gordon Jump) wakes up one morning to find his wife Lucy (Lucy) gone, and each episode finds Arnie searching for his missing mate — imagine *The Fugitive* with red hair. Or a cross between *Golden Girls* and a My-Loved-One-Is-Missing-type TV movie starring Meredith Baxter-Birney. If *The Flying Nun* flew smack into *Herman's Head*, the result of the collision would be something like *Where's Lucy?* Okay, just say *Hogan's Heroes* and *Suddenly Susan* had a baby? The result of that unholy coupling would be this show. Think *The Dukes of Hazzard* meets *60 Minutes*.

Actually, none of those comparisons make any sense, but as a writer for *Entertain Me Weakly* I am contractually required to randomly compare a new show with at least two other more well-known ones in an effort to mask my inabilities at competently describing new productions.

Regardless, *Where's Lucy?* features some of the sharpest writing and best physical comedy of any of the Lucy shows. Remember Lucy and her sidekick Ethel working in a candy factory and trying in vain to keep up with a speedy conveyor belt of chocolates on *I Love Lucy?* Well, forty-something years later, that's finally been topped in *Where's Lucy?* when the action takes us to



JUMP 'N JACK *Where's Lucy?* co-stars Gordon Jump (left) and Lucille Ball (right) ponder what the hell this photo title means, since neither of them are named "Jack."

AND YOU THOUGHT THE ONLY ACTION AT THE MALL WAS PEOPLE LINING UP EARLY OUTSIDE CARD SHOPS FOR NEW BEANIE BABIES.



Lost children. Giving directions to the new Waldenbooks. Routing shoppers away from that spill in the food court. No one said working here would be easy. It's another awful syndicated show we rescued from cancellation for no apparent reason. Only on USA Network.

USA NETWORK

The cure for insomnia.

"Mall Security"
Sundays at 8 pm/7C

A MAD AD PARODY

another candy factory with an even faster conveyor belt. The chocolates are flying fast and furious — and Lucy's nowhere in sight!

There's no doubt that ABC has a hit on its hands with *Where's Lucy?*, but just to be sure, *Lucy* creator Kevin Tripe is trying to coax George Burns back to life with the promise of a recurring role. "George hasn't been dead long — he's still enjoying it," said Tripe. "When he's been dead as long as Lucy, maybe he'll consider it."

It's ironic, when you think about it; Lucy's come full-circle: On her first show, she was forever pestering her band leader husband to be "in the show," not realizing that whether she made it on the Tropicana's floor show that night or not, she was in fact the star all along. Now, with *Where's Lucy?*, she can't possibly realize she's the star of the show — she's not even in it! Ricky Ricardo would be proud.

Actually, that's neither ironic nor reason for Ricky to be proud. But it's a nice, pat way to close this article. My editor would be proud.



WINNER OF THE WEEK

Obese Comedians

Now that Chris Farley has joined his portly predecessors John Belushi and John Candy at the great improv in the sky, it's an open field for any sweaty lard-ass who can tell a knock-knock joke or feign an epileptic seizure.

LOSER OF THE WEEK

Entertain Me Weakly

We're so busy handing out unsolicited advice to movie stars, TV networks and film studios through our "open letter" and "report card" articles, we don't realize that our own magazine is a laughable piece of crap.

SOUND CHUNKS

"20/20 will continue after these messages." BARBARA WALTERS, leading into a block of commercials, on *20/20*

"I'd like to buy a vowel." *Wheel of Fortune* contestant CAROL PARTINGIFT moments before purchasing an "I"

"Heh heh heh heh heh heh!" PAUL SHAFFER, bootlicking on *Late Show With David Letterman*

"Scully here!" AGENT DANA SCULLY (GILLIAN ANDERSON), answering her cell-phone, on *The X-Files*

THE RATING SHAME

BROADCAST BLUES

FLEDGLING "NETWORKS" UPN and the WB again embarrass themselves by not having a single show in the Top 25, though they were able to climb to (snicker!) 97 on the list by combining their one-each hit shows — *Sister, Sister* (WB) and *Moesha* (UPN) — into the newly-titled *Sister, Moesha, Sister*. Meanwhile, in the real TV world, Fox, the Peacock, the Eye, and the Alphabet networks vied for viewers and ratings — and, as this intro and following chart proves — *by referring to the networks* by hip, insider names and listing random numbers, we can make any slack-jawed yokel subscriber from the Ozarks feel as tuned into the TV biz as the head of development at Carsey-Werner who gets accurate information from the trades. Did you catch those last two industry references?



THE DUBBA-WHO?-B: Three unknown actresses from the WB's newest dismal sitcom.

TOP 25

	VIEWERS*		LAST WEEK
1	26.6	**THE WORLD'S SCARIEST POLICE WOMEN** FOX, *Wednesday, 8 p.m.*	—
2	25.6	**FRIENDS** NBC, *Thursday, 8:00 p.m.*	4
3	24.3	**FRIENDS OF FRIENDS** NBC, *Thursday, 8:30 p.m.*	5
4	21.7	**MOVIE: BRING BACK MY BABY!** ABC, *Sunday, 9 p.m.*	—
5	21.4	**TOUCHED BY A LEPER (R)** CBS, *Sunday, 8 p.m.*	10
6	20.5	**MOVIE: BRING BACK MY BABY'S STROLLER, TOO!** ABC, *Monday, 9 p.m.*	—
7	20.2	**CRUSHED BY AN ANVIL** CBS, *Sunday, 9 p.m.*	13
8	20.0	**SLAW & ORDER...OF FRIES** NBC, *Wednesday, 10 p.m.*	17
9	19.8	**VERONICA'S CRAWLSPACE** NBC, *Thursday, 9:30 p.m.*	10
10	19.7	**CIRRHOSIS, THE TEENAGE LUSH** ABC, *Friday, 9 p.m.*	14
11	19.5	**EVERYBODY LOVES RAISINS (R)** CBS, *Monday, 9 p.m.*	19
12	19.4	**MOVIE: YOU BROUGHT BACK THE WRONG BABY!** ABC, *Thursday, 9 p.m.*	—
13	19.0	**INSECTICIDE: LIFE UNDER THE SINK** NBC, *Thursday, 10 p.m.*	26
14	18.8	**DIAGNOSIS BOREDOM** CBS, *Thursday, 9 p.m.*	28
15	18.7	**GROPED BY AN UNCLE** CBS, *Sunday, 10 p.m.*	12
16	17.6	**GRACE UNDER WATER** ABC, *Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.*	9
17	17.0	**THE GAY-FRIENDLY WORLD OF DISNEY: BOY STORY** ABC, *Sunday, 7 p.m.*	18
18	16.5	**NUDERADIO** NBC, *Wednesday, 9 p.m*	31
19	16.4	**BURNER, TEXAS RANGETOP** CBS, *Saturday, 10 p.m.*	15
20	16.3	**SUDDENLY SNOOZIN'** NBC, *Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.*	—
21	16.1	**THE EGGS-FILES** FOX, *Sunday, 9 p.m.*	—
22	16.0	**MONDAY NIGHT FOOSBALL** *ABC, Monday, 9 p.m.*	11
23	15.4	**THIRD SLOT FROM THE BOTTOM (R)** NBC, *Sunday, 8 p.m*	27
24	15.3	**BAD-TV** FOX, *Saturday, 11:00 p.m.*	—
25	15.1	**MAD ABOUT BEING LAST** NBC, *Tuesday, 8 p.m.*	30

*IN DOZENS (R) REBUN WEEK OF APRIL 1-7, 1996 SOURCE: NIELSEN RANDOM STATISTICS



SELF-HELP BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Hack's Guide to Getting Your Book on Oprah

This helpful paperback advises writers to couple a mix of weepy women's themes, anecdotes about angels and non-controversial social issues with a title featuring a sewing term (thread, patchwork, tapestry, etc.) to turn their book into a best-seller the instant Oprah holds it up on her show.

Nonfiction

TO MAKE HAPPY, PRESS C BUTTON Sunel Tagaki *(Hypeonandon, $24.95)* Rags-to-riches stories usually look to inspire, and this one, the autobiography of the man who created the international toy sensation, the Tamagotchi, is no different. Young Tagaki was only 17 when he met his hero, Erno Rubik, the inventor who made millions from his famous Rubik's Cube. The meeting inspired Tagaki to make his fortune by creating a toy that would teach his fellow countrymen and their children the responsibilities of cleaning up the LCD feces of a nonexistent digital animal. Ultimately, this book is tiresome and hard to understand because, like the instructions for his toy, paragraphs alternate between Japanese, German, Spanish and broken English text. **D+** *—AJ Corncob*

35 YEARS OF PLASTIC MARGARINE TUBS: A LOOK BACK Margaret Oleo *(Generic Publishing Group, $36.95)* This gorgeous coffee table volume does a thorough job chronicling the saga of the plastic margarine tub through luscious full-color photography and an informative text rich with buttery tidbits. All the containers you remember from your childhood are here — from the plain white ones all the way to the plain white ones with little blue flowers on them. The author doesn't shy away from the casual margarine tub with specks of toast crumbs in it, nor does she deny what was to become of these modern day treasures: The last chapter is devoted to emptied margarine tubs doing double-duty as holders of nuts and bolts in our nation's garages. **A-** *—Michael Glitzy*

ART BUCHWALD, JAMES BACON AND ME Dick Cavett with Art Buchwald and James Bacon *(Namedrop Press, $38)* From Jackie Gleason to Groucho Marx, from James Dean to anyone else who is conveniently dead and unable to corroborate these anecdotes, Buchwald, Bacon and Cavett have wisely pooled their resources and come up with this book, which features amusing unsubstantiated showbiz stories involving themselves and anyone who was anyone but is no longer around to protect his or her name. **A** *—Danielle Stuffynose*

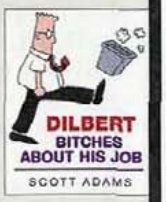
THE RUINER

Closing lines from recently published mysteries

"'Gosh, Perry, when did you figure out it was Montrose, the gardener?' asked Paul. 'Yeah, Chief, how did you know?' purred Della. 'Simple: the dents in Bickley's head and that cement garden troll's face matched perfectly. And speaking of cement, how about some of your delicious coffee, Della?' The trio enjoyed a warm laugh and awkward sexual tension." From *The Case of the Dead Guy's Head That Had Garden Troll-Like Dents In It* by ERLE STANLEY GONAD (St. Moron's, $22.95)

BEST-SMELLERS

'DIL DOUGH'



WITH A SITCOM coming and a Dilbert coffee mug in every cubicle, America *loves Dilbert! Sure, he's teetering on* the edge of massive oversaturation and it's only a matter of time before we all turn against him with a violent hate previously reserved *only for Garfield — but until then, he has a place in our hearts* and our bookshelves, as evidenced by this latest list.

DILBERT

		WEEKS ON LIST
1	**DILBERT BITCHES ABOUT HIS JOB** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	2
2	**YOU WISH YOU THOUGHT UP DILBERT, DON'T YOU?** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	15
3	**DILBERT AND ADAMS POCKET ANOTHER $20** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	8
4	**MEN ARE FROM MARS, DILBERT IS FROM SCOTT ADAMS** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	6
5	**DILBERT MAKES EVEN MORE MONEY FOR HIS CREATOR** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	32
6	**THE COFFEE TABLE BOOK OF DILBERT COLLECTIBLES 1994-96** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	48
7	**DILBERT'S GUIDE TO AMUSING DILBERT MOUSEPADS** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	9
8	**DOGBERT'S GUIDE TO DILBERT** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	3
9	**SCOTT ADAMS AND DILBERT LAUGH ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	29
10	**NO END IN SIGHT: THE DILBERT PHENOMENON** Scott Adams, *Harpie, $20*	28

NON DILBERT

1	**THE GAVEL** John Grisham, *Harper Roll, $25*	10
2	**SCARY NOVEL WRITTEN DURING COMMERCIAL BREAKS WHILE WATCHING *SEINFELD* LAST NIGHT** Stephen King, *Kramer, $17.50*	39
3	**THAT LITTLE ROUND PIECE OF WOOD WHERE YOU STRIKE THE GAVEL** John Grisham, *Kramden, $24.50*	3
4	**THE BRIEFCASE THAT CAME FREE WITH A SUBSCRIPTION TO TIME** John Grisham, *Addedbonus, $24.95*	78
5	**I WROTE THIS WHILE WAITING TO USE THE BATHROOM** Stephen King, *Commode, $17.50*	136
6	**THE STENOGRAPHER'S TYPING MACHINE-THING** John Grisham, *Trixie, $29*	38
7	**MORE DINOSAURS AND ANNOYING KIDS** Michael Crichton, *Re-Hash Press, $29.95*	18
8	**THE JUDGE'S ROBE** John Grisham, *Alice, $26.95*	3
9	**A TIME NOT TO KILL SCOTT ADAMS** John Grisham, *Vengeful, $25*	16
10	**OPRAH'S NOT SO FAT ANYMORE** Bob Feeds and Oprah Winfrey, *Eats, $18.95*	11

BOOKS YOU'LL NEVER READ

1	**SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY OFFENSIVE PEOPLE** Stephen R. Picknose, *Flatulence Press, $1*	12
2	**THE RULES: LAST-DITCH EFFORTS OF FINDING SOMEBODY, ANYBODY!** Some Angry Chicks, *Lonely Press, $8.95*	64
3	***STEWING AND CANNING YOUR YOUNG*** Martha Stewart, *Little Browned and Company, $17.95*	27
4	**GENERIC WACKY AUTOBIOGRAPHY** Current Hot Comic With A Sitcom, *Cookiecutter Books, $22*	3
5	**THE ENGLISH DENTAL PATIENT** Michael Ne'erfloss, *Cavity Books, $15*	13
6	**WITHOUT A JOB** Marcia Clark, *Unemployed Press, $10*	23
7	**THE HEART OF A WOMAN, STILL BEATING, IN A GLASS JAR** Maya Angelou with Stepehen King, *Grosse, $16*	15
8	**CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD OVER A CELL-PHONE, BOOK I** Neale Downin Pray, *Sacrilege, $8.95*	22
9	**CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD'S SNOTTY LITTLE RECEPTIONIST, BOOK II** Neale Downin Pray, *Sacrilege, $8.95*	36
10	**FOR GOD'S SAKE, JUST GIVE ME GOD'S DAMN VOICEMAIL, ...DAMNIT, BOOK III** Neale Downin Pray, *Sacrilege, $8.95*	58

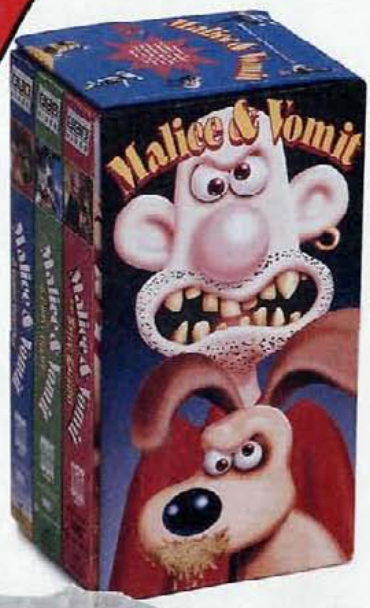
SOURCE: PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

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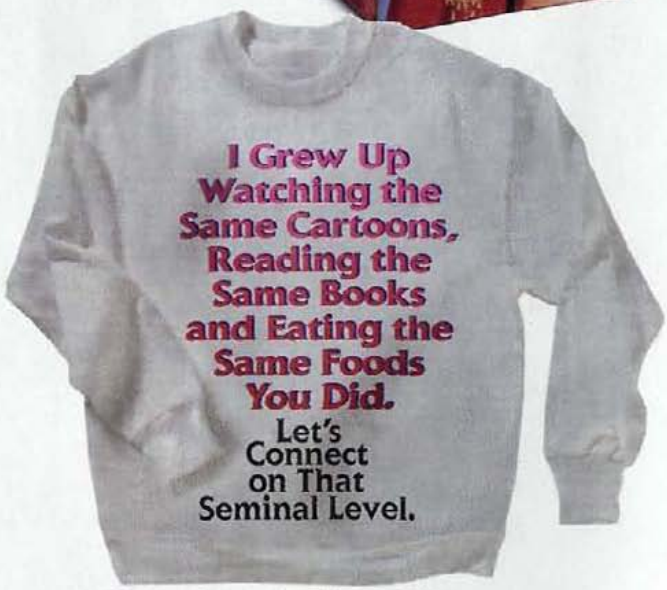




MALICE AND VOMIT VIDEO COLLECTION —
Pretentiously British claymation duo star in three forgettable films: *A Jolly Time for Kippers & Sweets, The Wrong Bloody Crumpet,* and *Avoiding the Dentist.* Each one is less than eight minutes long, but we've put them on three separate tapes to justify the price.
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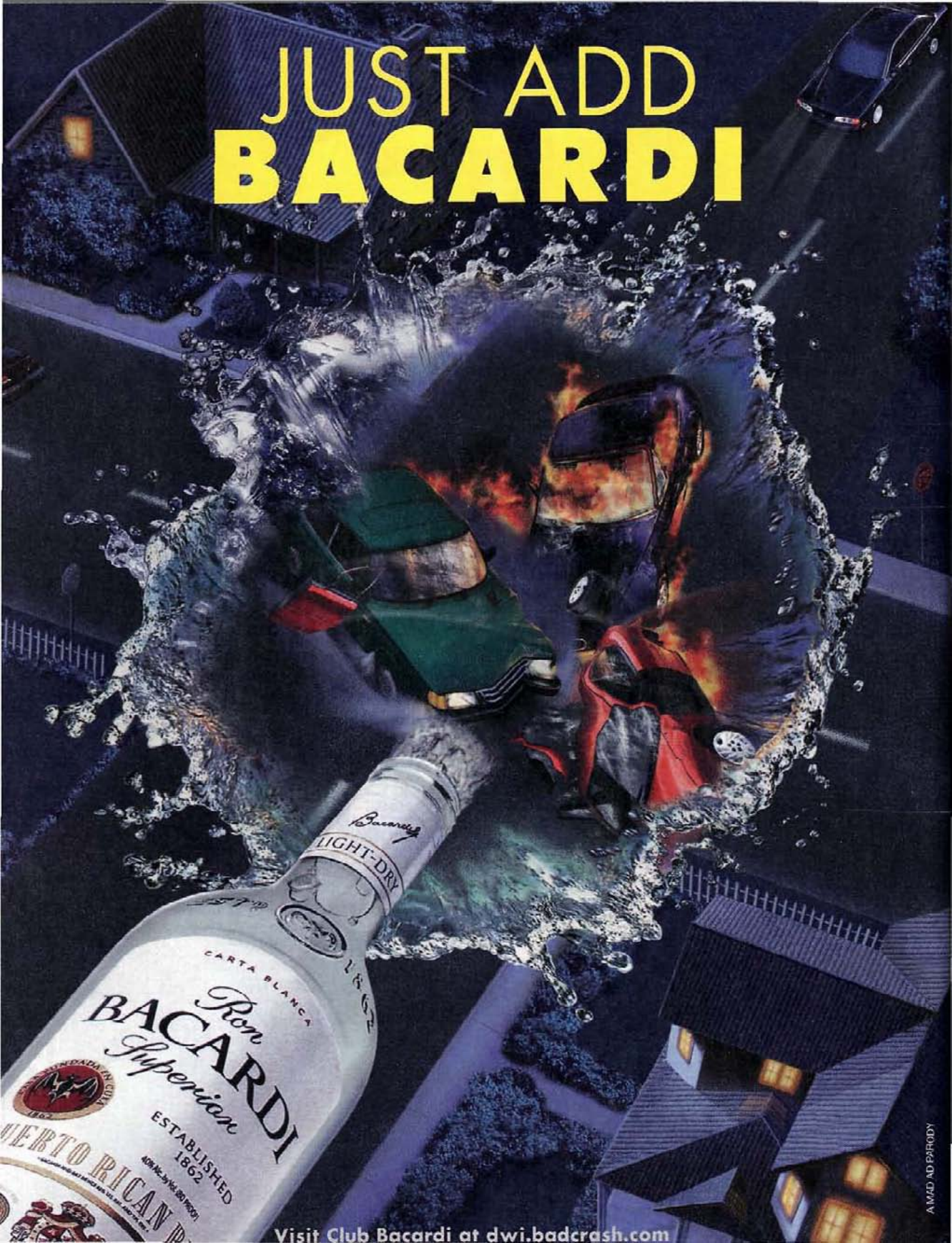
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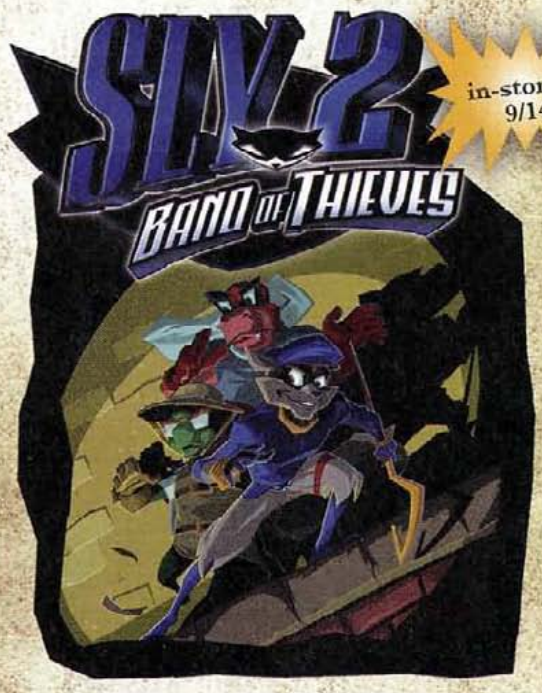
All items are shipped eventually. In-stock items paid by credit card arrive in just three days! Unfortunately, nothing is ever in stock.

All shipping and handling charges are exorbitant. Canadian/International orders are subject to additional S&H and applicable foreign duties and taxes. It would actually be cheaper to fly to the U.S. and buy your stupid *Seinfeld* T-shirt at the gift store of the NBC Studios in Burbank.


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GAMEPRO

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POP OFF VIDEO

MICHAEL JACKSON

BILLIE JEAN



"Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Val Kilmer."



MTV allegedly wouldn't play this clip at first, because they didn't like to show videos featuring black artists.

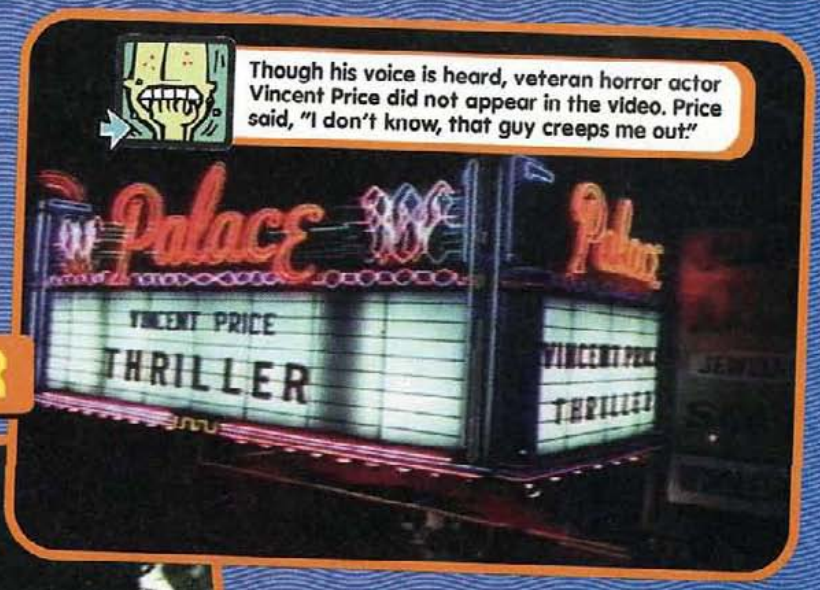
As it turned out, both MTV policy and Michael's status as a "black artist" would be totally reversed just a couple of years later.



Michael Jackson wants the guy outside the window to think he's climbing into the woman's bed, then mysteriously vanishes within seconds.

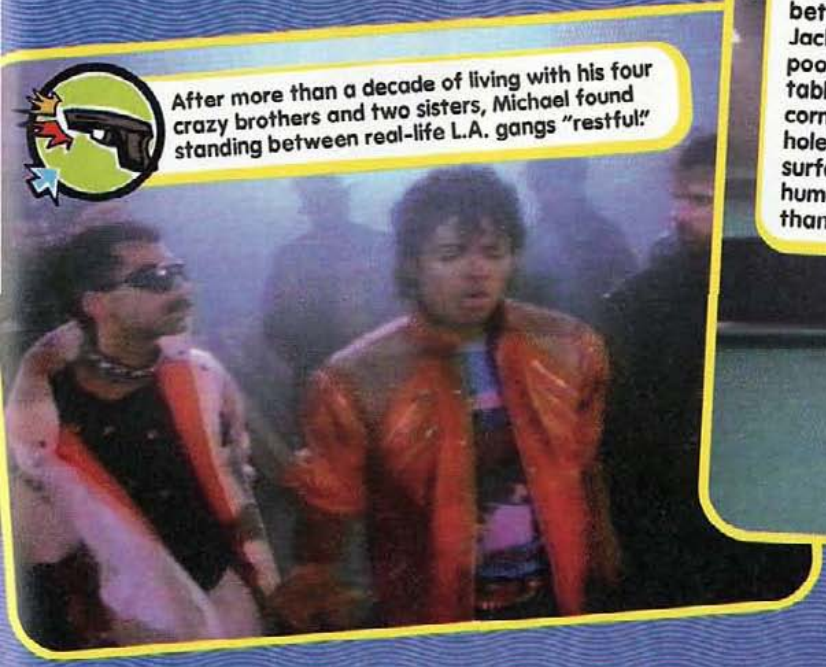
He did the exact same thing a decade later, during his marriage to Lisa Marie Presley.

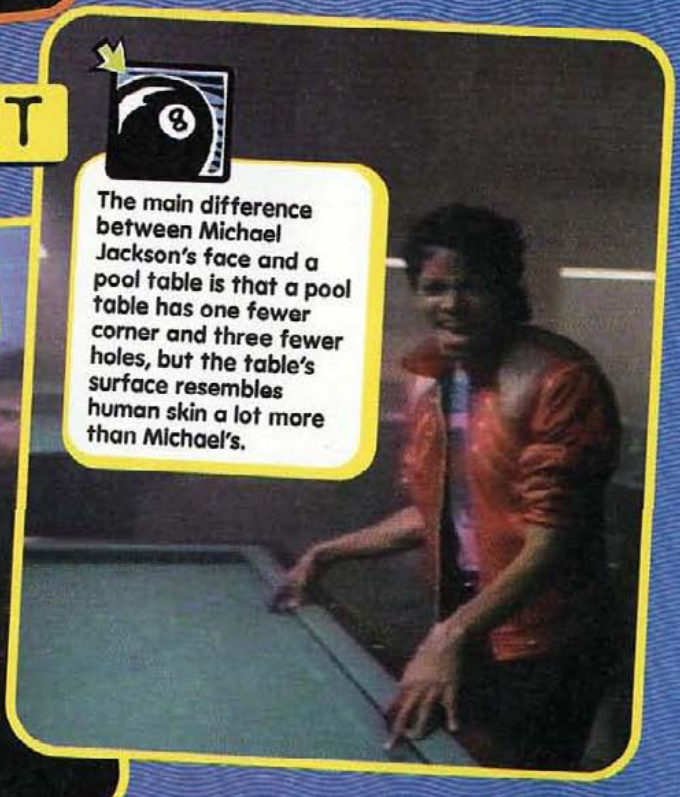
THRILLER





BEAT IT





MICHAEL JACKSON

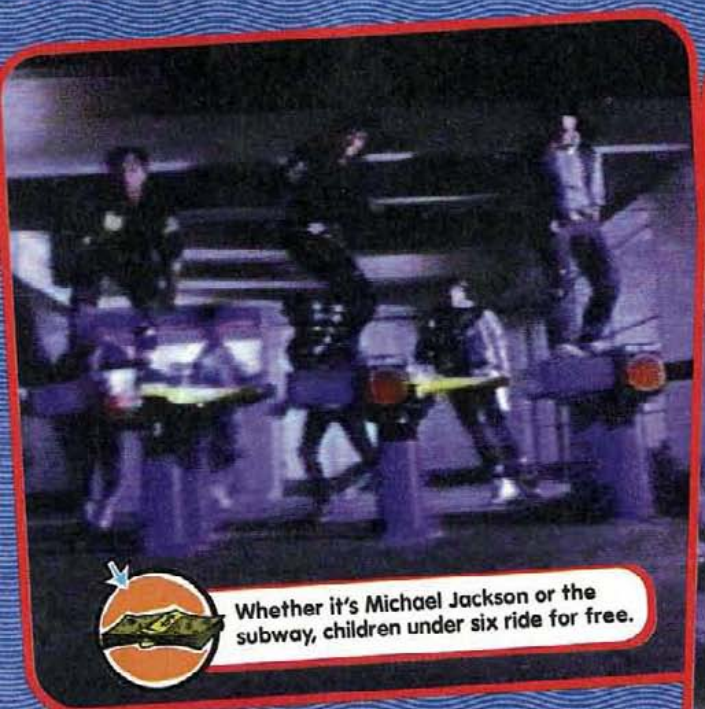


Arguably, Michael and his hoodlums comprise the most terrifying gang of toughs since *Welcome Back, Kotter.*

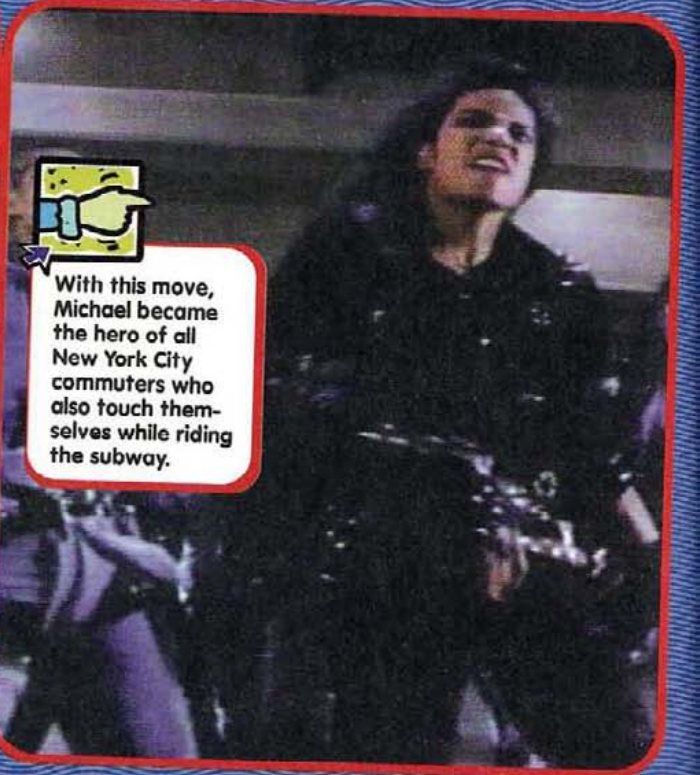


The New York subways were constructed from 1900-1904, with hundreds of workers chopping holes on the surface and filling them in as they went. The process was not unlike the history of Michael's face.

BAD

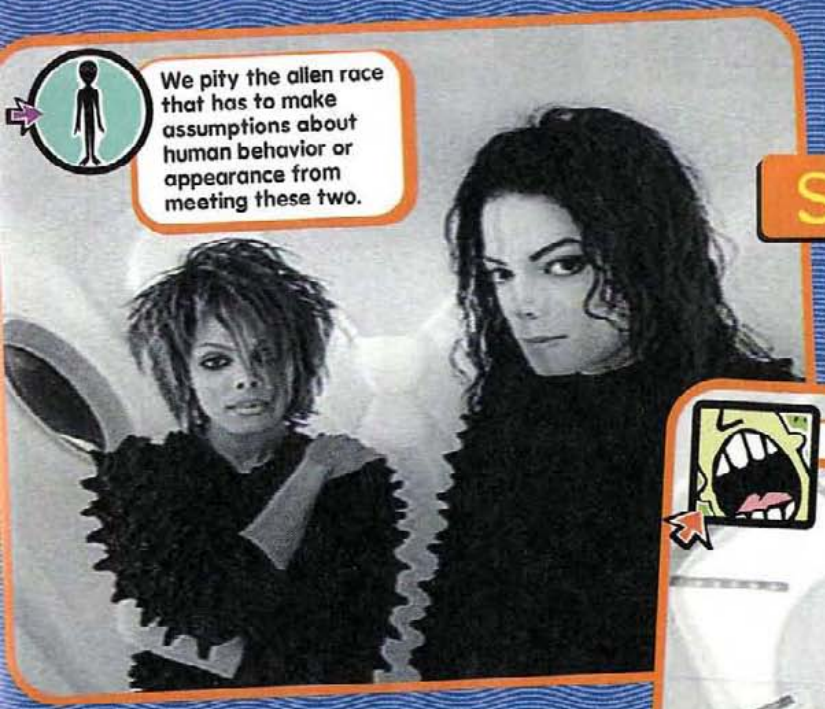


Whether it's Michael Jackson or the subway, children under six ride for free.

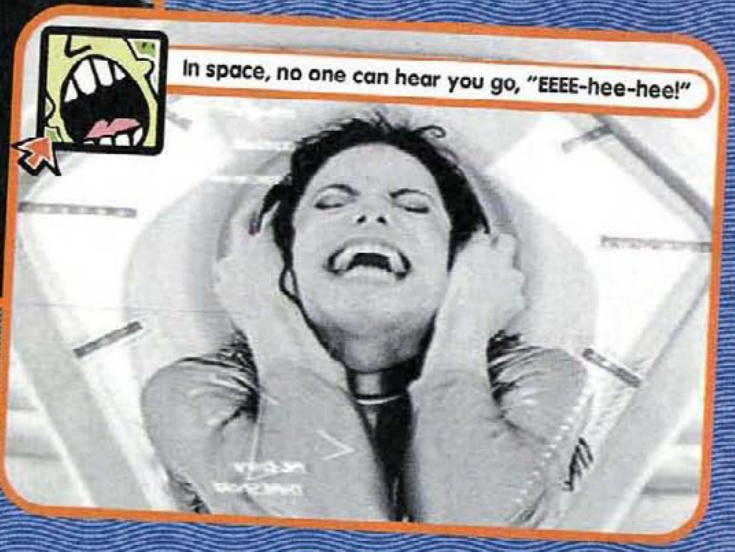


With this move, Michael became the hero of all New York City commuters who also touch themselves while riding the subway.

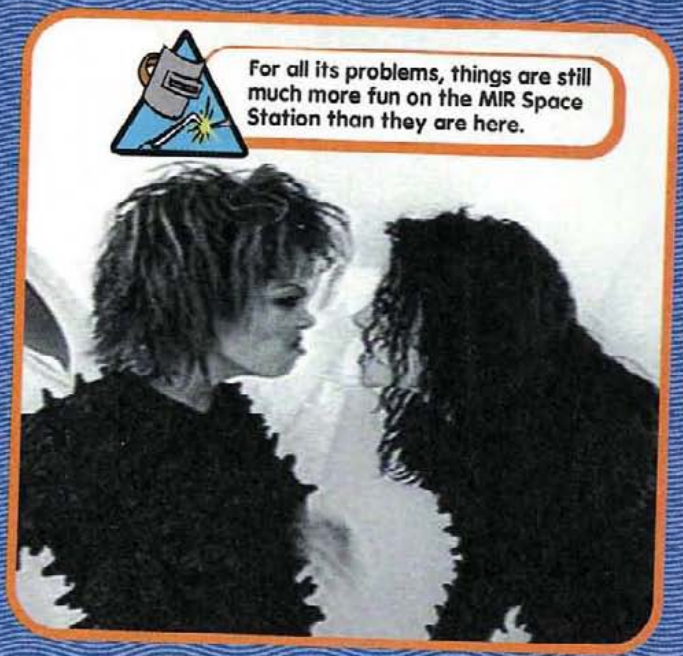
MICHAEL AND JANET JACKSON



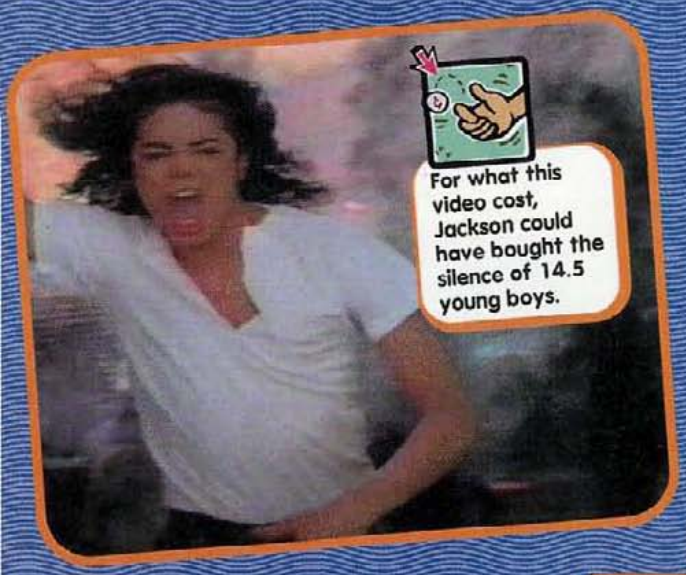
SCREAM



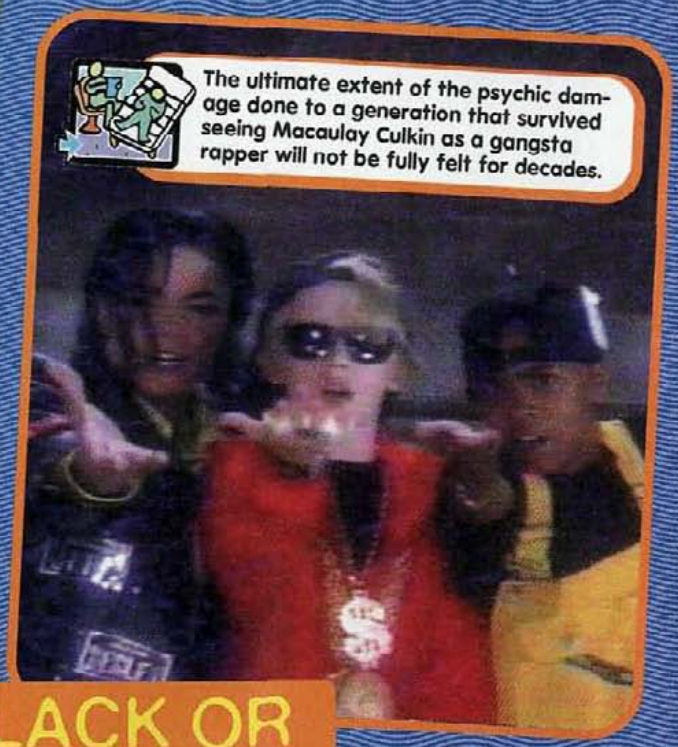




MICHAEL JACKSON

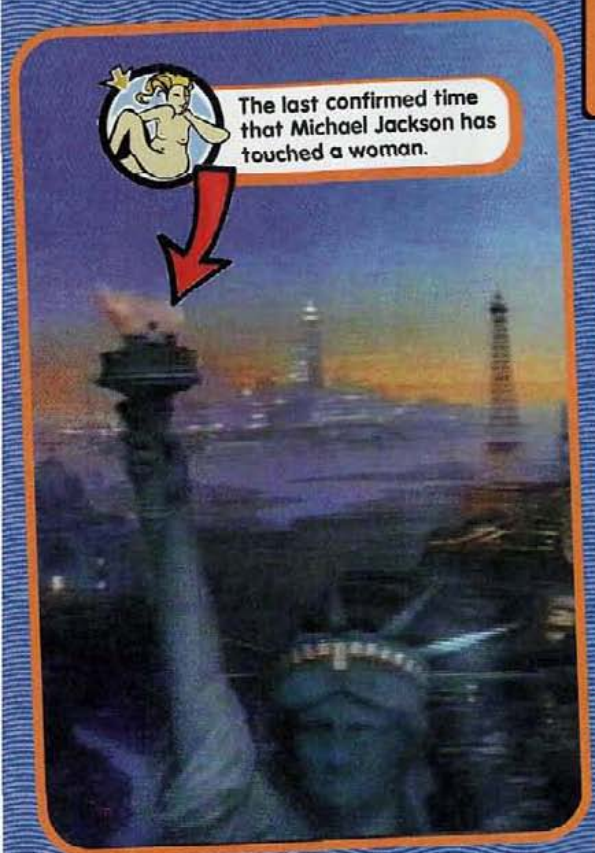


For what this video cost, Jackson could have bought the silence of 14.5 young boys.



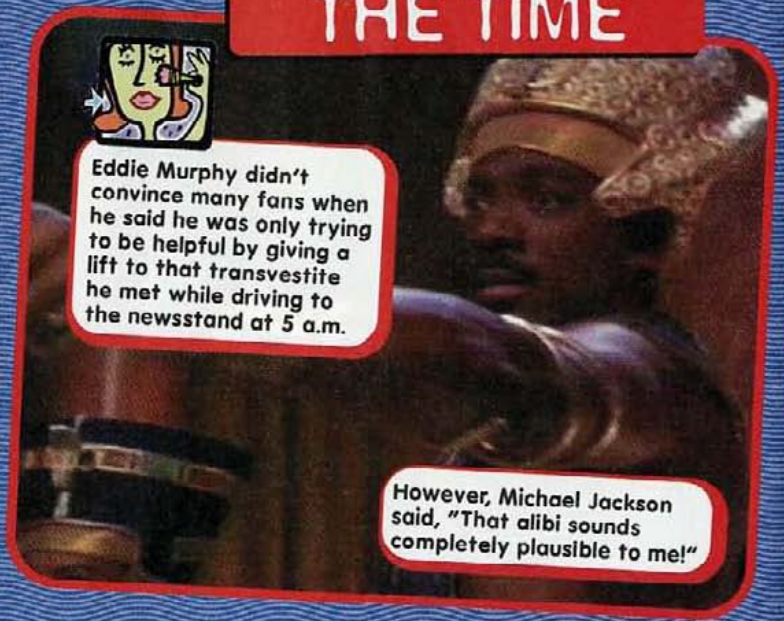
The ultimate extent of the psychic damage done to a generation that survived seeing Macaulay Culkin as a gangsta rapper will not be fully felt for decades.

BLACK OR WHITE



The last confirmed time that Michael Jackson has touched a woman.

REMEMBER THE TIME



Eddie Murphy didn't convince many fans when he said he was only trying to be helpful by giving a lift to that transvestite he met while driving to the newsstand at 5 a.m.

However, Michael Jackson said, "That alibi sounds completely plausible to me!"

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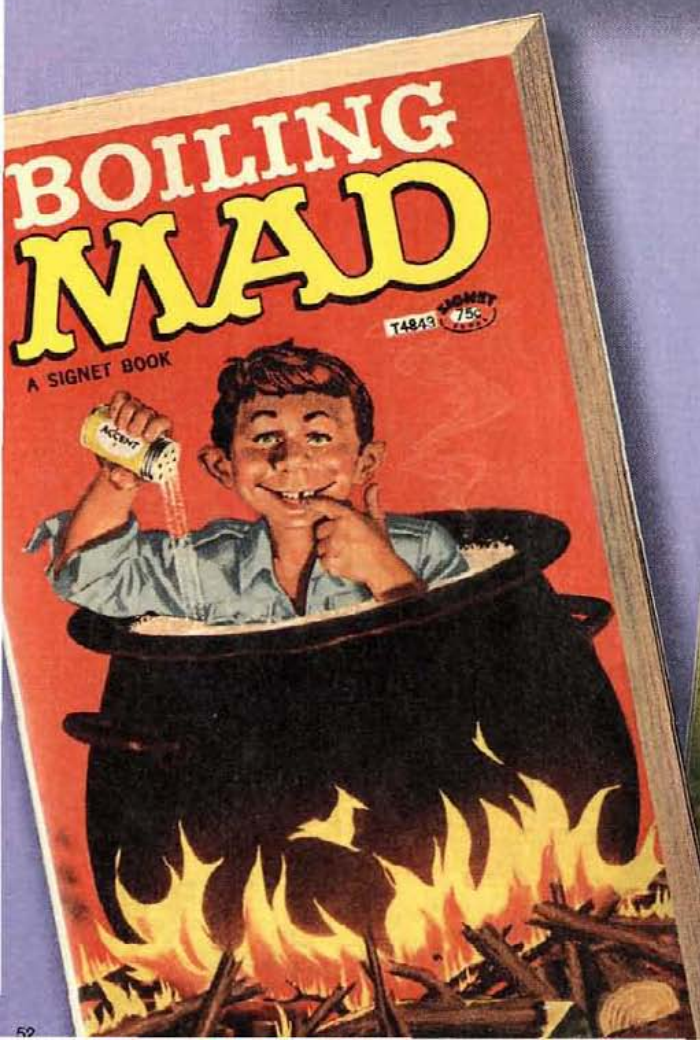


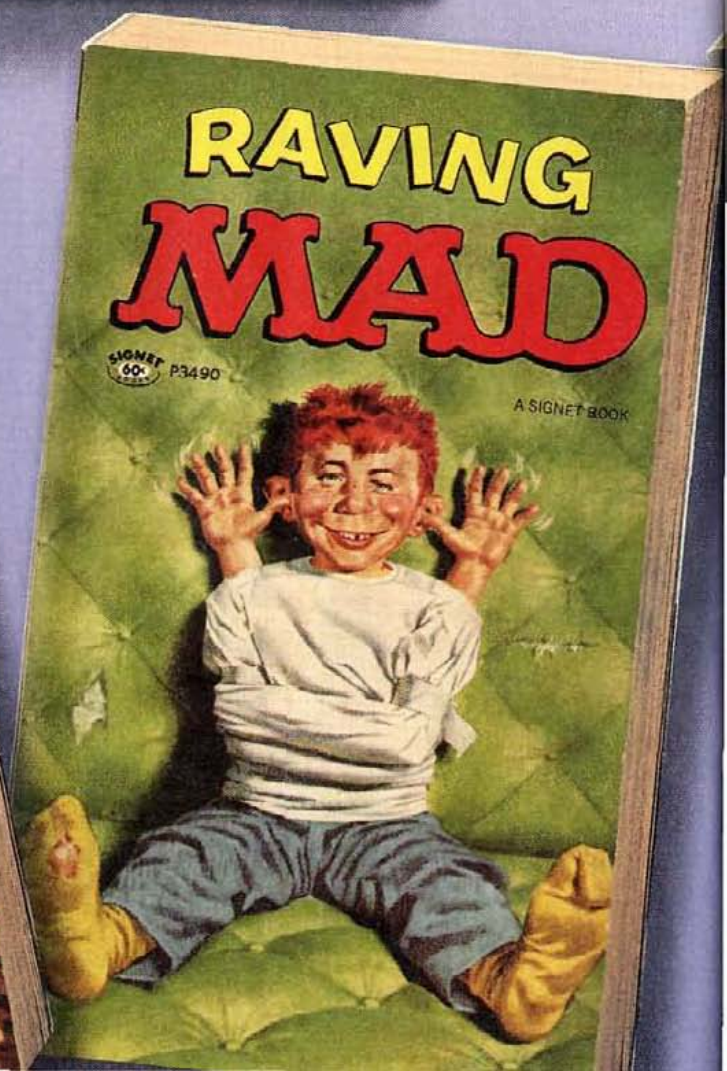
PAPERBACK-WARD GLANCES DEPT.

MAD's REDISCO CO

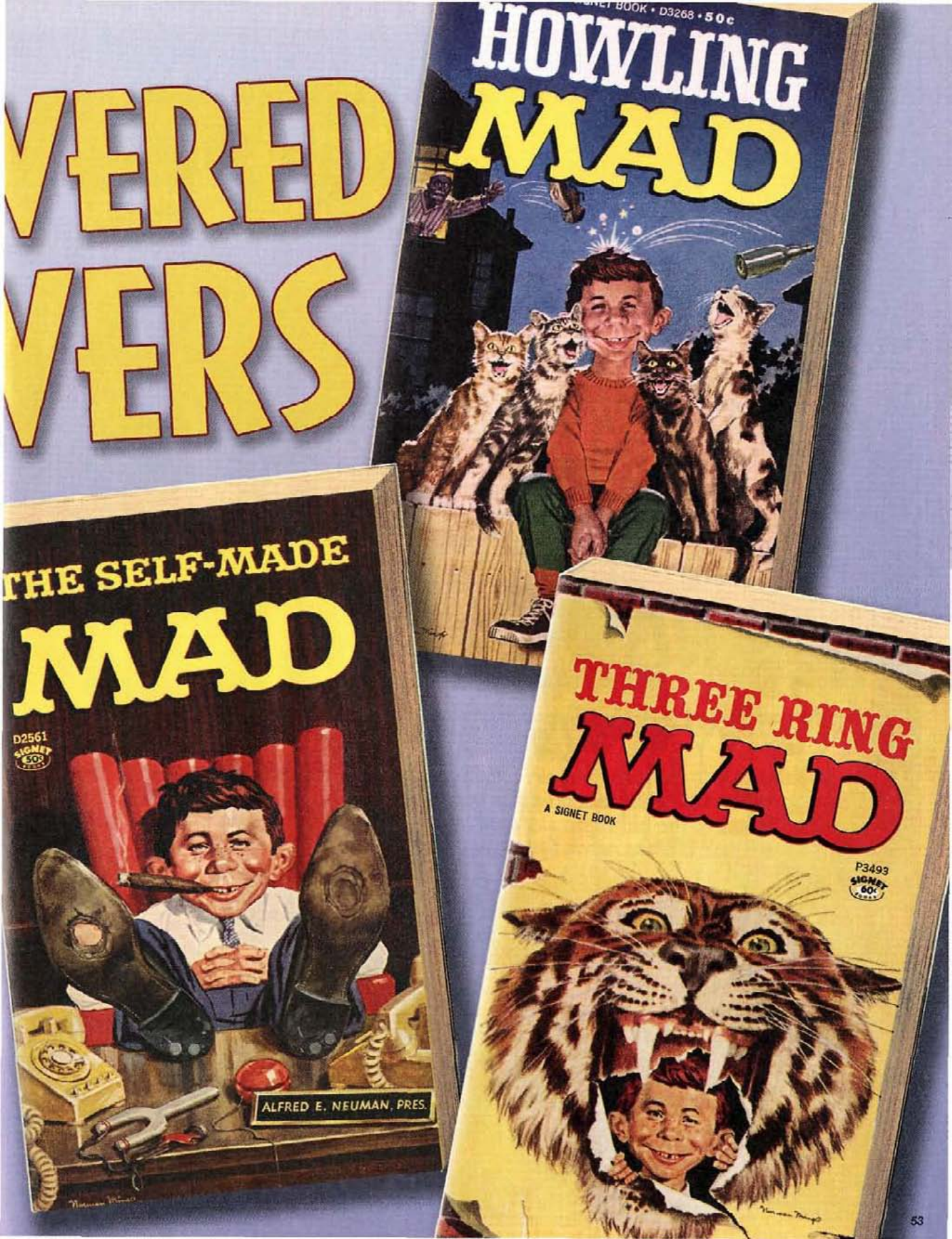
During a company-wide game of hide and seek, we cleverly ducked into our stock room. However, as the hours passed, we grew tired of waiting for Joel from accounting to find us and we decided to go through some of MAD's classic paperbacks. And we made quite a discovery! First, we found Joel hiding from *us* (apparently, the rules of hide and seek confuse him). Second, we came across some long-unseen paperback covers that perfectly fit this self-serving feature! This month, we're printing five of Norman Mingo's classic covers from the mid-1960s. (We left Joel right where he was, though!)







VERED
VERS

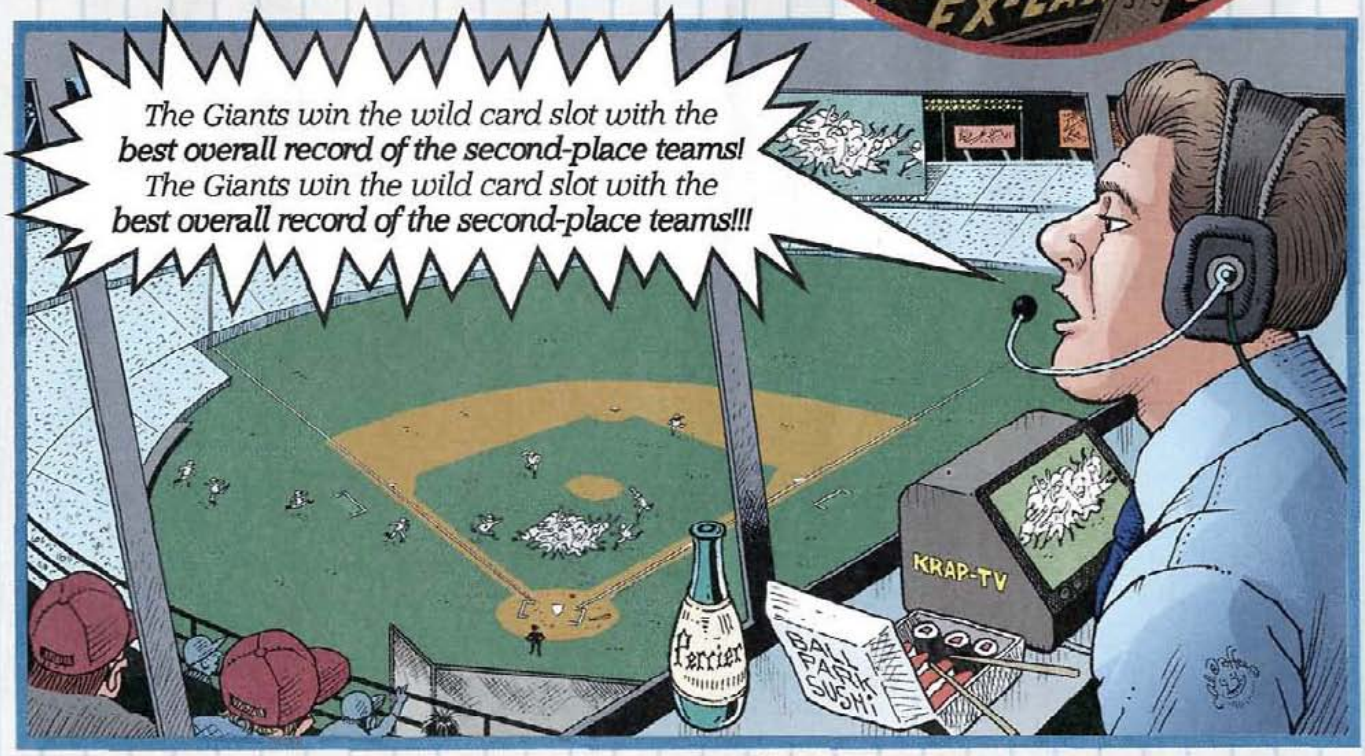

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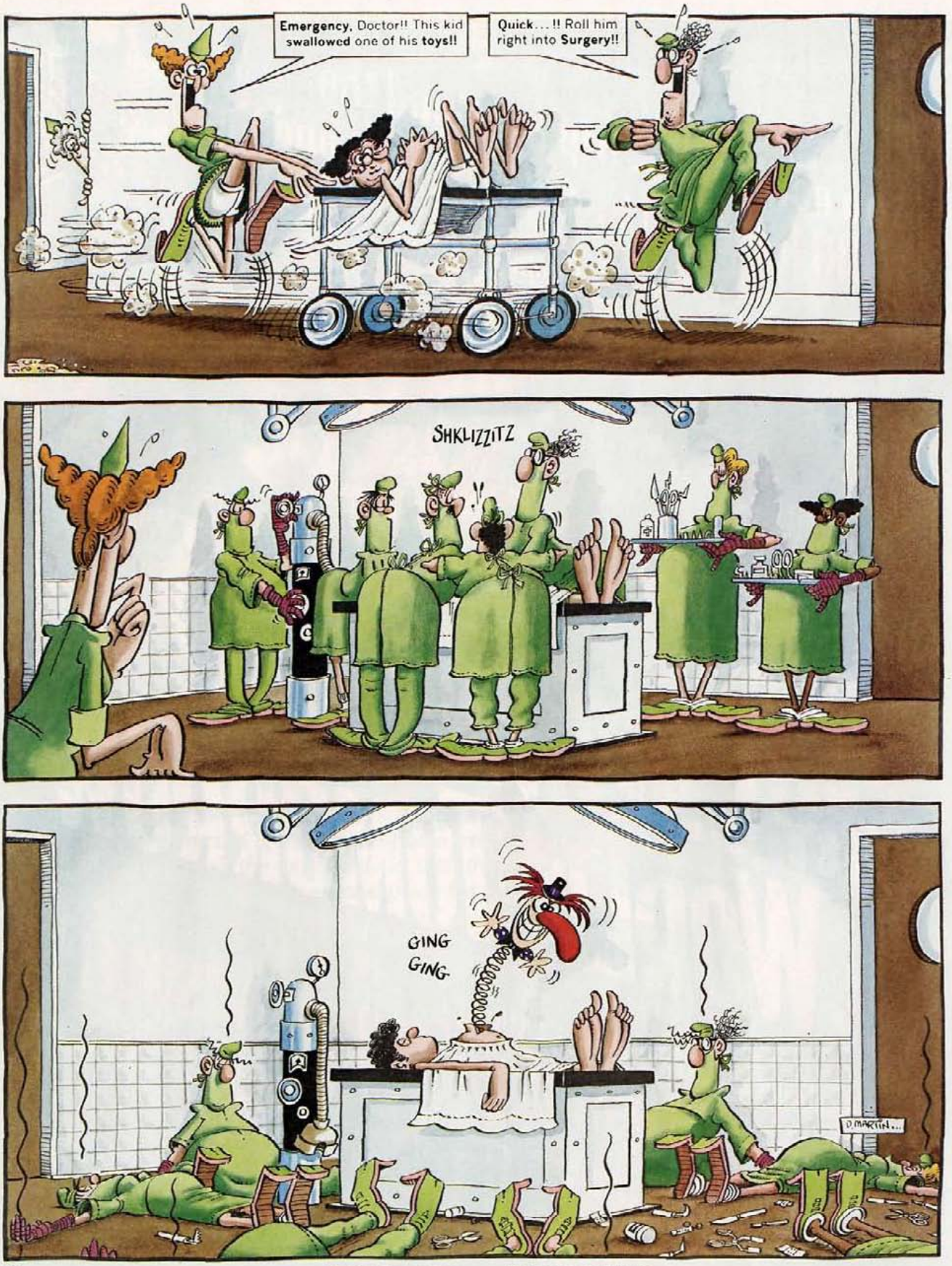


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ARTIST: DON MARTIN WRITER: DON EDWING

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HERE WE GO AGAIN WITH ANOTHER

MAD FOLD-IN

Life in the fast lane is very appealing. To find out what one thing you'll need to make it there, fold in page as shown.



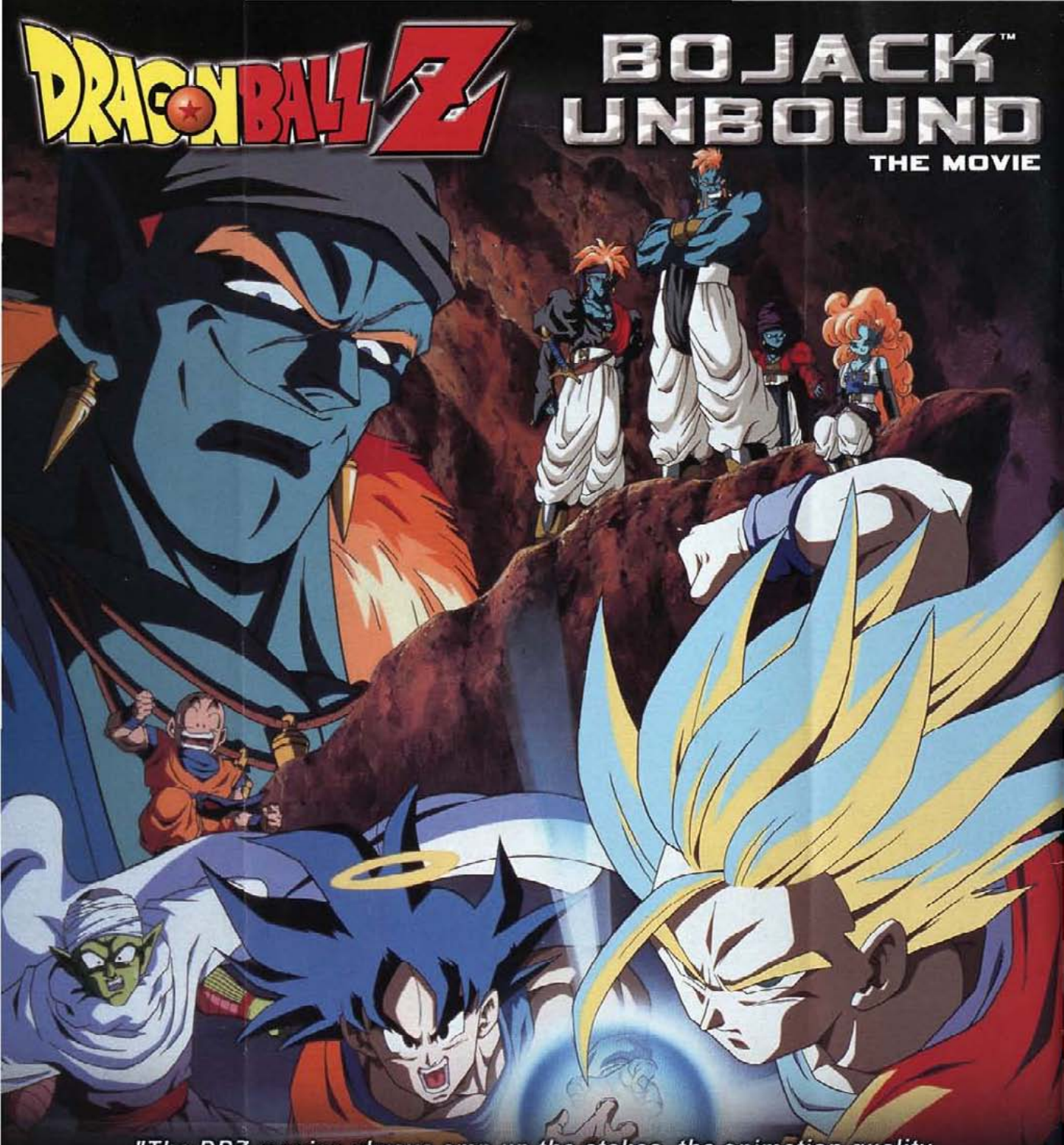
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A ▶ FOLD BACK SO "A" MEETS "B" ◀ B FOLD THIS SECTION OVER LEFT



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